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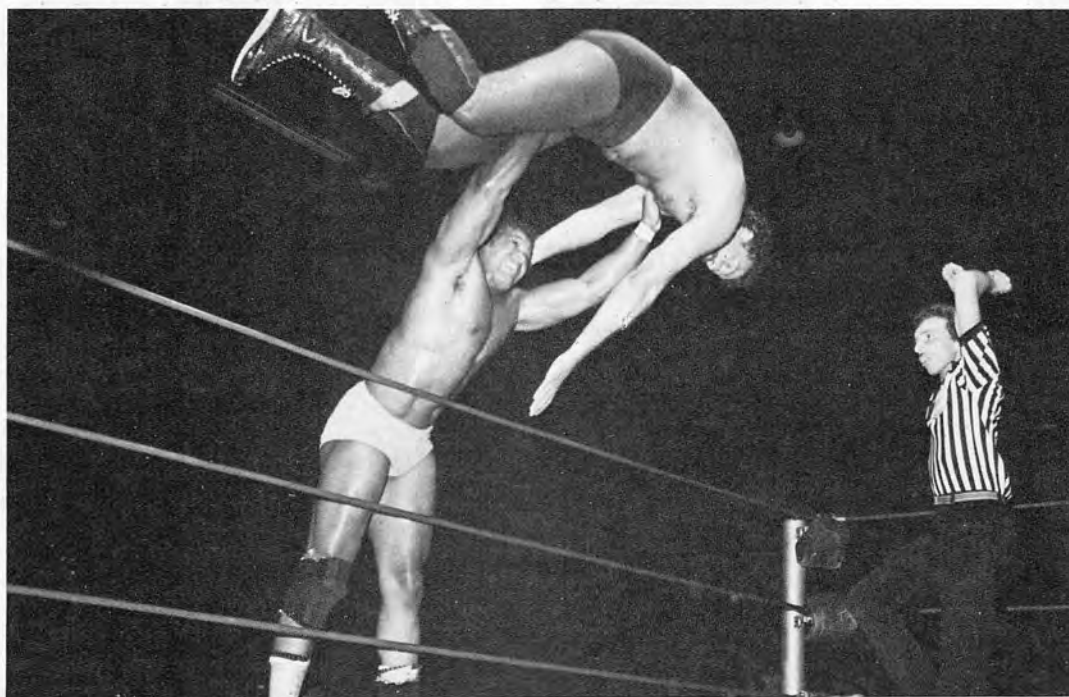


photo by Bill Otten

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Should a special guest referee be called upon to officiate an all important bout? There are many pros and cons to this question, but the bottom line rests in the fact that an "impartial" wrestler can not control order inside the ring any better than a licensed official. In New York all referees must be licensed by the state and in fact, are employed by the New York State Athletic Commission. The same holds true in New Jersey, Maryland, and Massachusetts. In fact in every state the athletic commission in that state assigns the referees to the match. It seems, however, that in New York and several other cities the athletic commission has waived this rule on several occasions and allowed non-licensed wrestlers-turned referees for the evening) to officiate important bouts. On the East Coast, Ivan Putski, Gorilla Monsoon, Pat Patterson, S.D. Jones and most recently Swede Hanson have refereed important bouts. It seems that whenever someone other than a licensed referee steps into the ring to officiate a bout some controversy invariably ensues. I am not saying that this happens deliberately but it seems that the egos of these guest referees sometimes hamper them from doing a just and proper job.

Although these guest referees do apply for and receive referee's licenses prior to the match they are officiating, this piece of paper alone does not automatically make them qualified referees. To be successful at anything takes many years of practice and just because someone can wrestle does not automatically ensure that he will be a good, fair, impartial referee. Would New York Met Tom Seaver be qualified to call balls and strikes if an umpire



Bob Backlund and his manager Arnold Skaaland question referee Swede Hanson during his Lumberjack match with Billy Graham in MSG.

were needed in a pinch? Would Jet, Mark Gastineau be an impartial linesman in an all important game? To believe that this would be the case would be ludicrous! This is not meant to put everyone in the same category. There are many wrestlers who would never think of being anything but honest, but unfortunately there are others who would not be fair.

Recently in an important Lumberjack match in Madison Square Garden, involving Superstar Billy Graham and Bob Backlund, guest referee Swede Hanson was involved in a dispute with Superstar Billy Graham over whether or not Graham actually submitted to Backlund's Chicken Wing. After a minute of questioning Graham on whether or not he wanted to sub-

mit, Swede signaled for the bell. The match was then awarded to Bob Backlund by submission. Graham was furious, claiming that he didn't submit. Did he? Guest referee Swede Hanson said he did. Graham claims he didn't. Who can we believe? In a situation such as this it becomes very tricky as to who is really telling the truth. If a licensed, impartial referee were in the ring there would have been no question as to the outcome of this match. No one would really question his authority or impartiality.

To avoid incidents like this in the future the WWF, NWA and the AWA should avoid using guest referees for important bouts and no one's integrity would be questioned and we would be spared any unnecessary controversy. □

George Napolitano

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LETTERS

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Albano Forever!

Jimmy Snuka is slime! He has disgraced the sport of wrestling. Lou Albano was only looking out for Snuka's well being until he got mixed up with that punk Buddy Rogers. Snuka deserves to be beaten and banned from wrestling for his unjustified defiance of the Captain.

Albano's #1 fan
 Steve Zuccaro
 Tappan N.Y.

Editor: Dear #1 fan. Don't you mean Albano's one and only fan.

Ric Flair is #1

First I would like to congratulate you on your terrific articles in Wrestling's Main Event. Main Event is truly the best wrestling magazine on the stands today. In upcoming issues of Main Event would you please include an article on the NWA World Champion, Ric Flair.

Flair has been my favorite wrestler ever since I started watching wrestling 7 years ago. His versatility has made him the best wrestler in the world today.

Paul Saconn
 Elon College, N.C.

We at WME agree wholeheartedly with you that Ric Flair is a champion among champions. There are many fine wrestlers but few have the charisma, style, stamina and ability of the NWA champ.

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You believe that it is absolutely impossible. That *you* cannot read any girl's mind. From miles away? *Never!*

You have every right to be unconvinced. "Mind-reading" is usually a stunt performed on TV or in a club. While it's great entertainment—it's still an out and out fake. Certainly not the *real* thing.

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You would be able to read her inner-most thoughts. As clearly as if you were looking at the



pages of a book set in type one inch high. Without her ever knowing. *Unless you, yourself, told her!*

Dealing with her would be pure pleasure. Imagine knowing in advance just what to expect from your date, mate, lover, or new-found friend. No more guesswork. No more wasted time. No more frustration. *For once, you are the boss!*

EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, YOU RISK NOTHING TO TRY IT!

If you still insist that "it's impossible", consider this: Have you ever said something to a girl only to have her reply, "Funny, I was just thinking the very same thing?"

Coincidence? Maybe. Or perhaps you *unconsciously* used the technique without even being aware of it. Now you can *consciously* read her mind because you will know:

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- How to verify any girl's thoughts.
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Ivan the Greatest

Without a doubt the "Polish Power," Ivan Putski is the world's greatest wrestler. I've been a fan of Ivan's for some time and have yet to see a man who can match his devastating strength. He is the perfect man to rid the WWF of the likes of Billy Graham, Don Muraco and John Studd.

Keep up the good work Ivan and let the "Hammer" fly.

Louie Mignone
West Orange, N.J.

Editor: Ivan is indeed awesome but he needs to acquire the self control necessary to avoid costly disqualification such as in his loss to Buddy Rose in MSG on Dec, 28, 1982.

Poem For Jimmy

Dear Sirs,

If at all possible, could you please publish this token of appreciation in hopes that Mr. Snuka will read it and understand how much we all love him. This is how I feel and I'm sure there are thousands of others with me.

TO JIMMY SNUKA FROM ALL YOUR FANS!

You've got the world behind you Jimmy, so take it as you may.

We'll give you strength and energy, in our rowdy sort of way.

Our cheers and screams are sighs of love, and you've never let us down. Though no belt is worn around your waist, you wear our royal crown.

They tried to steal your just reward, and thought that they had won. But, you've returned with double rage, and have only just begun.

We, your fans must tell you, you're the best among all men. Because the SUPERFLY FLIES AGAIN!!!!

WE LOVE YOU JIMMY!

THANKS SO MUCH,

LAURA CARLSON
Greensburg, Pa.

Now, what's a Pencil Neck?

I'm tired of Fred Blassie calling the wrestling fans Pencil-Neck Geeks. It's very insulting to the fans who watch wrestling because if it wasn't for all the fans there wouldn't be professional wrestling.

I would like to ask Fred Blassie and Big John Studd to explain to the fans just what a Pencil-Neck Geek really is (that is if they know themselves what it is).

Robin L. LaBagh
Middletown, N.Y.

Editor: Perhaps Fred and Big John don't know the answer but we at WME do know. A geek is according to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, "a carnival performer often billed as a wildman whose act usually includes biting the heads off of live chickens or snakes." Sounds to us more like an avocation of one of Freddie's wrestlers prior to or after their wrestling careers.

Wants to be a Pro Wrestler

I would like to know what it takes to be a pro wrestler, such as what schools offer the best training and what do I have to do to make it as a pro.

Corey Miller
Penn Hills Pa.

Professional wrestling is like any other glamour occupation whether it be a TV news anchorman, a series star, a professional baseball player or even a movie star, there is no set formula to making it as a pro wrestler. But there are two ingredients necessary for an aspiring wrestler to have at the onset in pursuit of this goal. They are athletic ability and tremendous drive. For those young wrestlers out there who really want to become mat stars my advice to you is get involved in the sport, wrestle in school, train in gyms frequented by pro-wrestler, get to know people who are involved in the sport at different levels. Make your presence and skills known and if you're good someone will take notice. Good luck. □



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WRESTLING'S ROUND-UP

Since our last issue Bob Backlund has disposed of Superstar Billy Graham and is now facing challenges from Big John Studd and the Magnificent Muraco. In Backlund's match against Graham in Madison Square Garden the champion made the Superstar submit with his new submission hold, "the Chicken Wing." Graham however, claims that he actually never submitted and that special referee, Swede Hanson, was paid off by the WWF commission to sway the match in Backlund's favor. Graham is seething and has challenged the Big Swede to a showdown. Their upcoming brawl should definitely be a bloodbath.

Barry Windham is now the most popular star in the Sunshine State. Windham is sensational inside the ring and many people feel that the talented Windham will someday be World champion . . .

Speaking of championship material, Kerry Von Erich is dying to get his hands on Ric Flair again. These two have waged war throughout Texas and their feud has now moved to St. Louis. With so many top stars gunning for Flair, it's a wonder that he has been able to hold on to his crown for so long . . .

Who is the Midnight Rider? The consensus of opinion around Florida is that the Midnight Rider is Dusty Rhodes. But, no one is definitely sure that the Midnight Rider and Dusty Rhodes are one and the same person . . .

The Fabulous Ones, managed by world renowned Jackie Fargo, are the talk of Tennessee. The Fabulous Ones always travel in style, sport tuxedos and can be found at the most elegant places. The Fabulous Ones are now locked



Ernie "The Cat" Ladd

up in a tremendous power struggle with the New York Dolls, Rick McGraw and the Dream Machine, and the Crazy Shepherders, Maniac Jonathan Boyd and Crazy Luke Williams, for tag team supremacy in the Southeastern Territory . . .

Stan Hansen, a fan favorite? That's the word spreading around wrestling circles. Hansen and Ole Anderson have split and now the two are at odds. In the last several

weeks Hansen has even teamed with Tito Santana. We'll keep up on this story and let you in on any further developments . . .

Are Jimmy Garvin and J.J. Dillon ready for a separation? Garvin is now walking into the ring accompanied by a beautiful female valet. Sure beats looking at J.J. Dillon . . .

The Wild Samoans, Afa and Sika, are now tearing up the opposition throughout the WWF territory.

B/W photos by George Napolitano



Killer Kahn is totally absorbed with his favorite magazine.

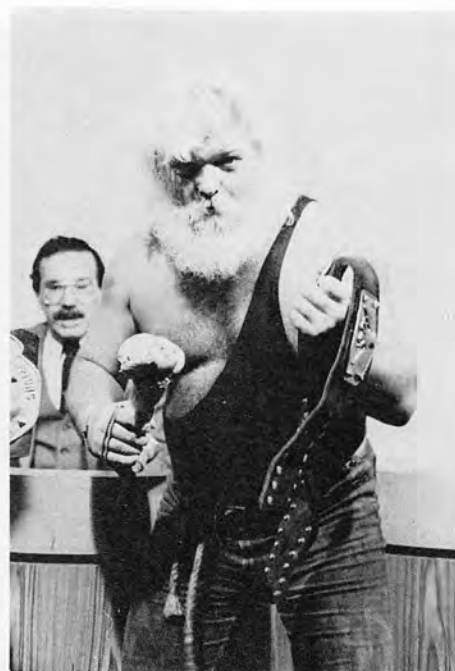
The Samoans had been dividing their time between Georgia and the East Coast. Albano has his tag team primed for a shot at the Strongbow Brothers and their WWF tag team title...

Tom Pritchard is now doing the color commentary along with Gordon Solie in World Championship Wrestling. The multi-talented youngster is destined to be a big star in the sport...

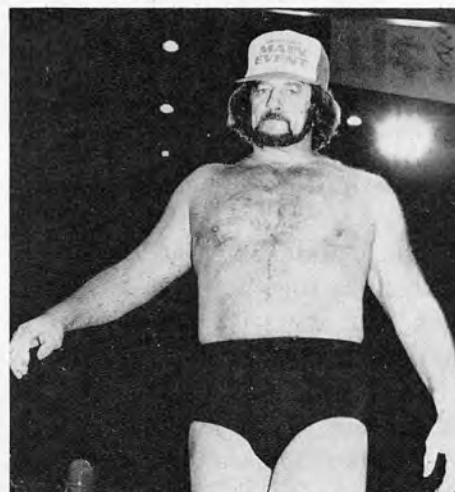
The Fabulous Freebirds are now wrestling in Dallas and are back to their rule breaking ways. What really caused the Freebirds to revert back to their old style? We will soon find out...

Adrian Adonis is the talk of the Southwestern Wrestling Territory. The flashy, arrogant Adonis is really one terrific wrestler...

The awesome Hulk Hogan is back wrestling in the AWA area



Moondog, Spot displays his championship belt.



Rene Goulet sports his favorite cap.

after a lengthy tour of Japan. "Ichiban," as Hulk is affectionately referred to, is the number one idol in the Land of the Rising Sun. In fact Hulk's record, appropriately titled "Ichiban" (number one) is climbing fast to the number one position on the record charts in Japan. In the last couple of years Hulk has done it all from wrestler to movie star and now rock and roll idol. What's next? a T.V. series? With

WRESTLING'S ROUND-UP



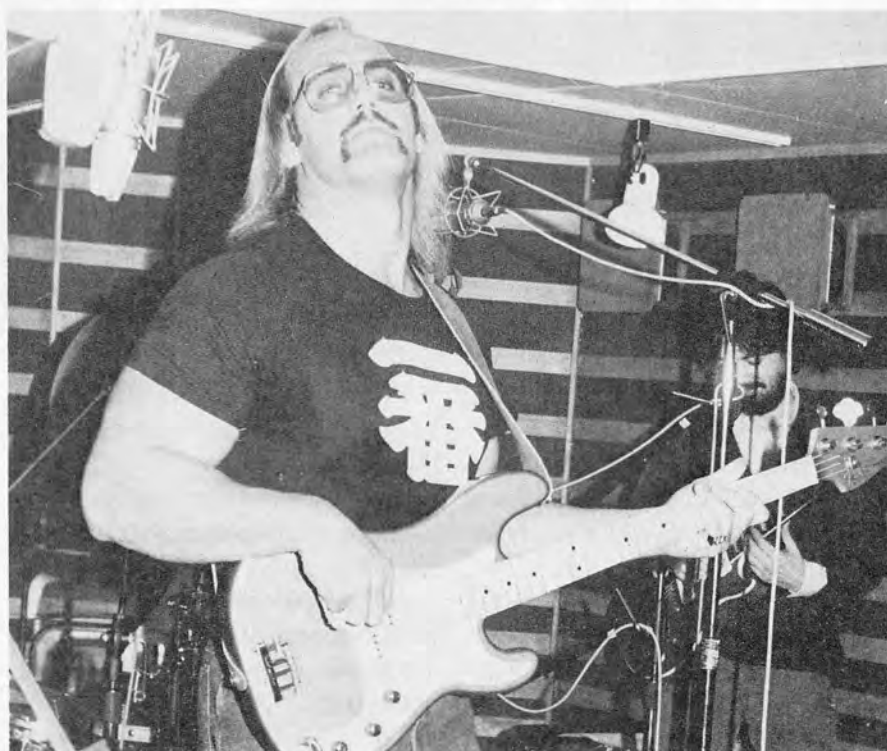
(Left to right) Peter Takashahi, WWF President Hishashi Shinma and Chief of Sales Naoki Otsuko.

the Hulk you just really never know...

Eddie Gilbert and Tony Garea are now wrestling together in the WWF area, and these two stars really work well together. In the past Garea has held the WWF tag team title on four occasions with Haystacks Calhoun, Dean Ho, Larry Zbyszko and Rick Martell and now together with Gilbert there is a strong possibility that Tony Garea may win a tag team title for an unprecedented fourth time...

Jerry "The King" Lawler has been battling the AWA Heavyweight Champion, Nick Bockwinkel throughout the Tennessee area. Their matches have been fast and furious with neither man being able to decisively defeat the other...

First there was Kimala, the Ugandan warrior. Kimala was later



Hulk Hogan displays his versatility with the guitar.

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Fred Blassie and Marie Dee at Fred's inauguration into Long Island's Hall of Fame.



David Von Erich and his trusty horse.

WRESTLING'S ROUND-UP



Abdullah The Butcher's belt is proudly displayed by his manager Hugo Savinovich



Blassie and Studd challenge anyone to body slam Studd with a reward of \$1000.

joined by an "assistant" and now there is a Kimala #2. In a recent match in Memphis, Jimmy Hart and Kimala #2 battled the original Kimala and his trusty assistant. That match was simply too wild to even describe . . .

Rick Martel continues to impress everyone throughout the AWA territory. Someday the talented Martel will win a major championship . . .

"The One Man Gang" is knocking them dead throughout the Mid-Atlantic area . . .

Would you believe that Abdullah the Butcher is now getting cheered in the Mid-Atlantic area? It sounds impossible, but it's true. But Abdullah is still the same wild, crazy wrestler he has always been . . .

The Invader, Jose Gonzales is still the proud holder of the Puerto Rican Heavyweight Championship and in recent months the Invader has turned back the challenges of Big Kareem Muhammad and also Terry Funk.

Antonio Inoki is hoping to win the International Wrestling Grand Prix Tournament. The Tournament is now entering the semi finals and the men still involved include, Andre the Giant, Adrian Adonis, Killer Kahn, El Canek, Tatsumi Fujinami, Mr. Olympia, Dino Bravo, Otto Wanz, Klaus Kauloff, Hulk Hogan and Antonio Inoki. The Tournament matches are scheduled to take place in Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Pakistan, Germany, England, Mexico, Los Angeles, New York and Tokyo. We will have a full update on this all important world tournament in our next issue of Wrestling "MAIN EVENT." Hope you enjoyed this issue and look for us next month on your favorite newsstand. . .



"I Want All The Titles"

The Magnificent Muraco Is Back!

By R.J. D'Ariano

It's been a rough few years for Don Muraco. This is hard to believe for he looks like a man who has it all; young, handsome, intelligent, financially secure and well established in his chosen profession. Yet, like they say, 'you

can't judge a book by its cover,' and the last few years of Muraco's book read like a horror story.

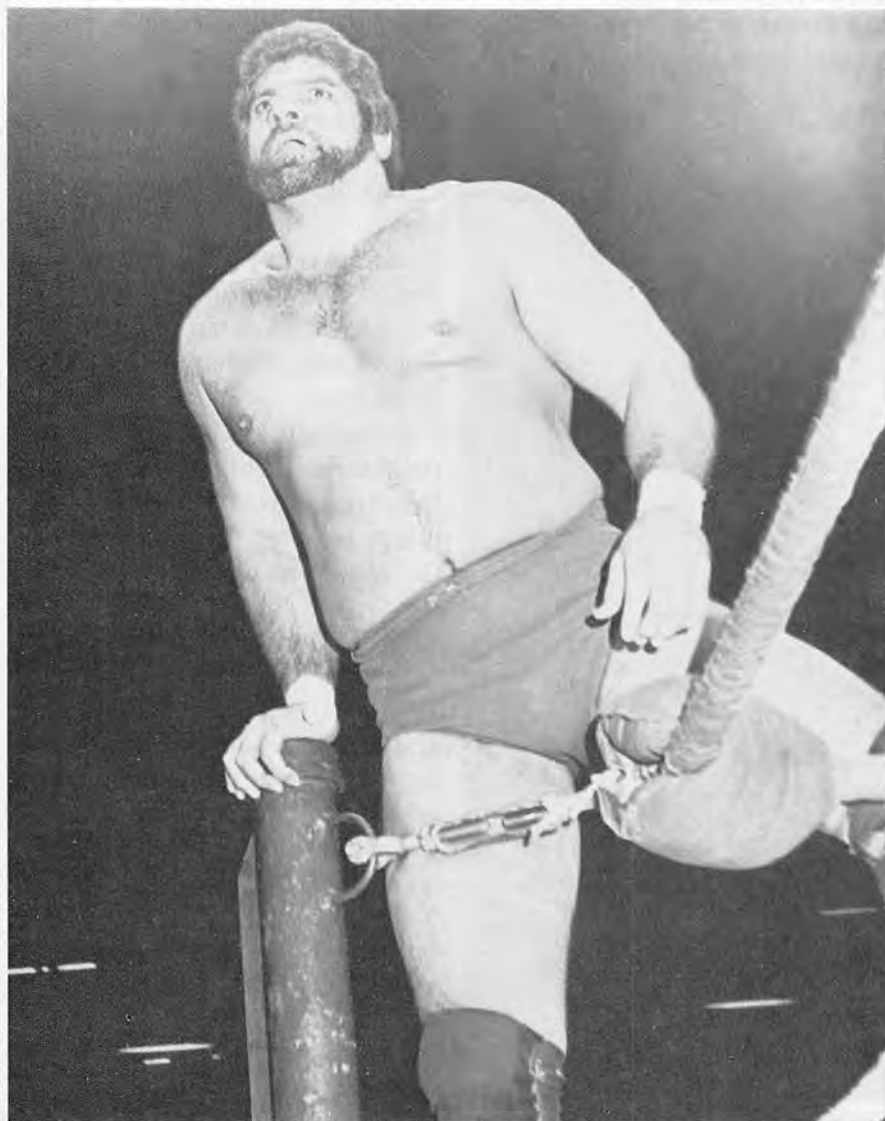
A few years ago, under the management of the Grand Wizard, the Magnificent Muraco left Hawaii and came East. His style was that

of an arrogant rule breaker. His awesome size helped him dish out punishment but he took it as well. Soon the tall and tan rule breaker was undefeated and then went on to a series of controversial confrontations with Bob Backlund, with each battle ending with a disqualification or a count out.

Then on a hot August evening in 1981, Backlund and Muraco amazed everyone with a classic one hour bout that ended in a draw. Muraco did not win the belt, but he won the respect of the fans and the wrestling world. This man was for real. He was a serious contender. He was the Magnificent Muraco.

Next Muraco entered a series of unbelievable battles with Pedro Morales, the Intercontinental Champion. This title was brought into the area by Pat Patterson who lost it to Ken Patera who then lost it to Pedro Morales. Muraco, frustrated from his series with Backlund, was determined to own a belt. He became even more aggressive, forcing his trademark taped thumbs in Pedro's eyes and throat. Yet Morales, who has faced the toughest men in the sport, held his own and in return dished out a tremendous amount of punishment. Finally, a frustrated Muraco attacked the champ with brass knuckles. The referee however didn't see this. Pedro went down and Muraco was the new Intercontinental Champion.

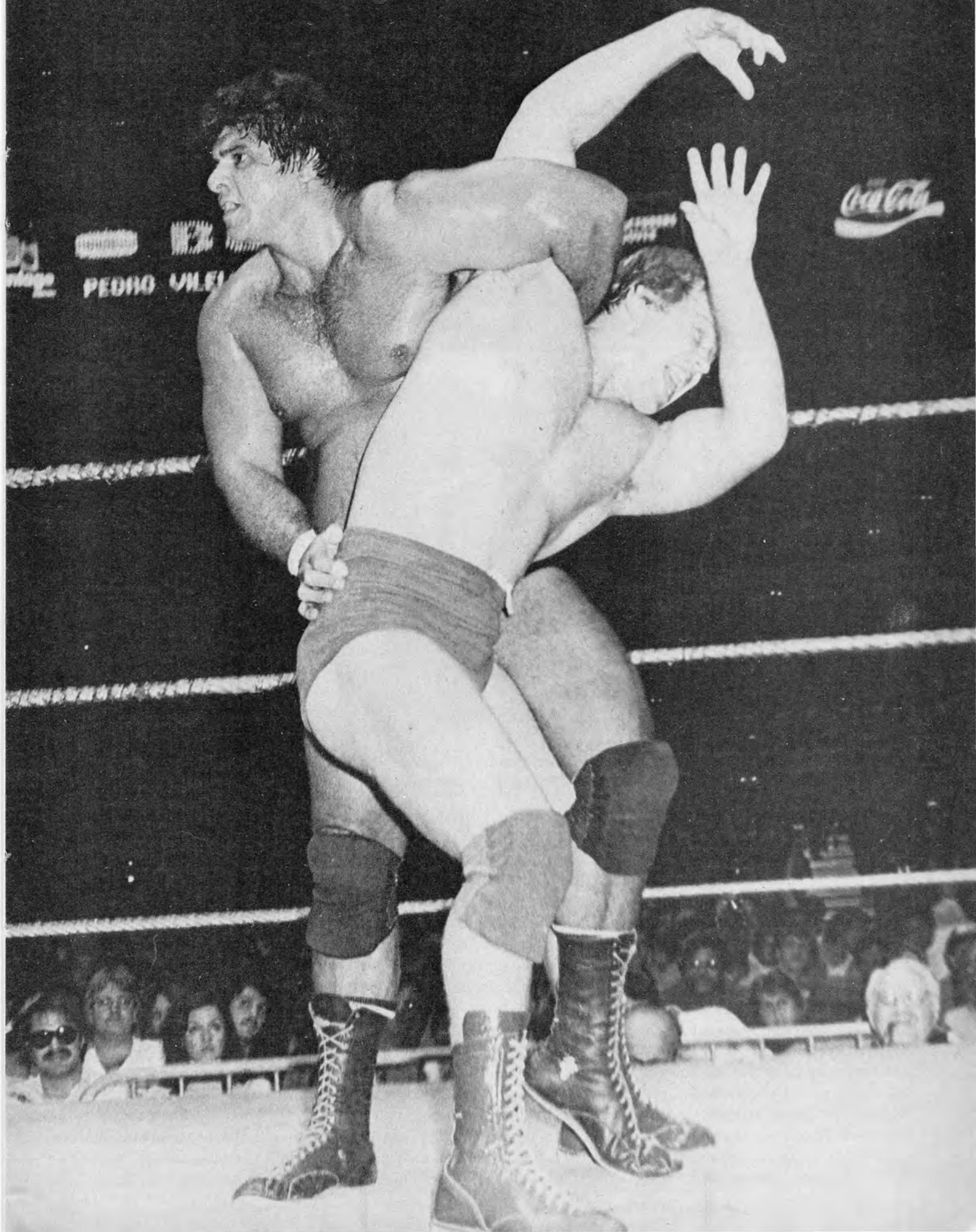
This honor only made him more arrogant. He never actually wore



A bearded Don Muraco takes to the ropes.

B/W photos by George Napolitano

Muraco has Bob Backlund trapped in an Abdominal Stretch





Muraco's elbow crashes into Pedro Morales' Jaw



Muraco applies the Sleeper Hold on a helpless Bob Backlund.

into years, with no word about his return to the ring.

Fans in the Georgia area know the next series of events. The then villainous Roddy Piper brought a secret weapon into the area. The big, awesome, violent Dr. X, a masked wrestler who could not be stopped. The area had never seen anything as aggressive, as arrogant, and as sadistic. It was soon revealed that Dr. X was indeed The Magnificent Muraco. He was back and he was an even greater threat then ever before. On the Fourth of July extravaganza at the Omni he defeated former NWA World Champion, Dusty Rhodes in one and a half minutes. Even after he won he continued to punish the man, and when Tommy Rich entered the ring to aid his friend Muraco destroyed him as well. Rich had to be carried out of the ring on a stretcher and his scheduled bout with Ivan Putski canceled. Muraco was no longer hiding behind a mask that covered his insecurities, but back as the Magnificent Muraco!

Bob Backlund wrestled Ric Flair that night at the Omni and many of the big names in the sport were present for this confrontation. Lou Albano was one of them, and he was most impressed with Muraco's destruction of Rhodes and Rich. He immediately entered into negotiations with the Grand Wizard, who still owned Muraco's contract, and in a huge money deal bought it outright. "The man has the moves, he's got the grooves, he has un-



Muraco has his say on "Roger's Corner."

the belt around his waist but rather casually across his shoulder or at times around his neck. Now he became even more sadistic. He just brutally attacked opponents with low blows, chokes, eye gouges, and weighted objects. He was disqualified often, but he didn't care about winning, only about injuring his opponents. The WWF held secret meetings concerning what they planned to do about this berserk champion but before they could take any punitive action against Muraco he faced Morales again. This time Pedro was the aggressor and when Muraco revealed his brass knuckles, Pedro went wild,

grabbing the weapon and using it on the "Magnificent One." The ref removed the brass knuckles from the ring and Pedro went on to defeat Muraco and recapture the title. Then the Magnificent Muraco vanished.

We can now report that he went home to Sunset Beach, Hawaii. He was depressed; and was disgraced. Even though winning and losing titles is the name of the game in pro wrestling and belts often change hands, Muraco took his defeat very hard. He lived isolated on the beautiful island beach, just lying in the sun staring at the ocean. Weeks drifted into months and months

precedented wrestling ability and agility," explained Albano. "But, most important he's from the Islands. These people think different; they're more primitive. I've got the Samoans under contract and now I have the Magnificent One, and all I can say is three island minds are better than one! So Jimmy Snuka beware, brother, beware."

Muraco has now come full circle. He's back in the WWF, under the management of Albano. The fans take up the chant, "Beach Bum," whenever he enters the ring. It annoys him but also seems to give him steam. Thus far he's remained undefeated. "First I want that greaseball Morales who stole my belt, than that little pale wimp Backlund, who knows I'm his master," shouts Muraco. "Then I want the tag team title. Don't ask me about my partner because it's for me to know and you to find out, and then when I own all three championships, Jimmy Snuka can pick the one he wants and I'll let



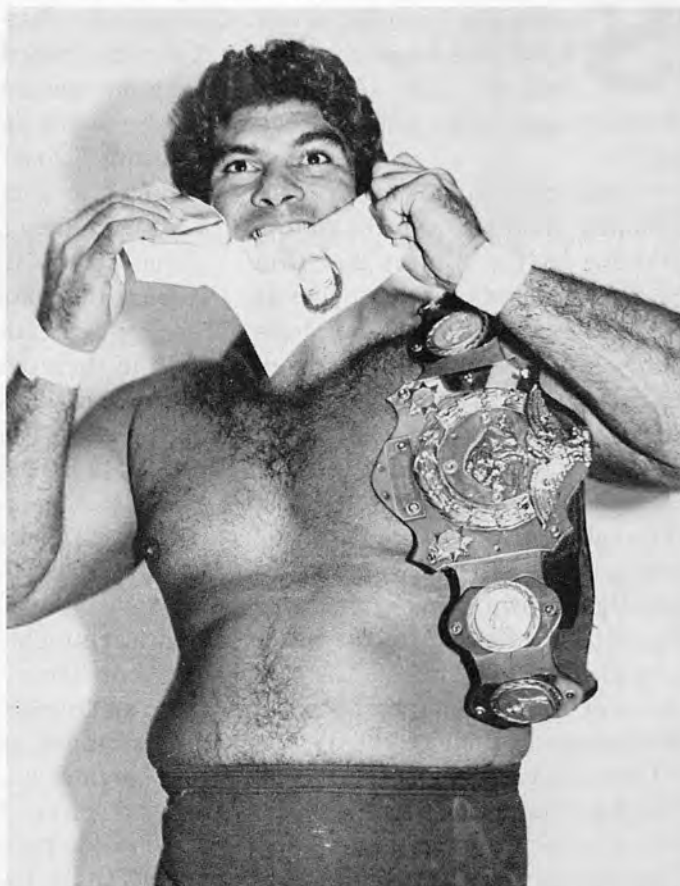
Backlund feels the pain of Muraco's blow.

him try and get it. Jimmy Snuka will learn my name, The Magnificent Muraco!" Then he began to laugh and begged his manager to punch him. Albano hit his man in

the chest, face and stomach as the two laughed and walked down the hall. "Beware, brother, beware!" yelled Albano, as they made their exit. □



Muraco slams his opponent to the mat.



Muraco lets the fans know how he feels about Morales.



photos by Mike Carville

Steamboat uses the ropes against Kernodle.

Tag Team War In The Mid-Atlantic

By Vito Schipa

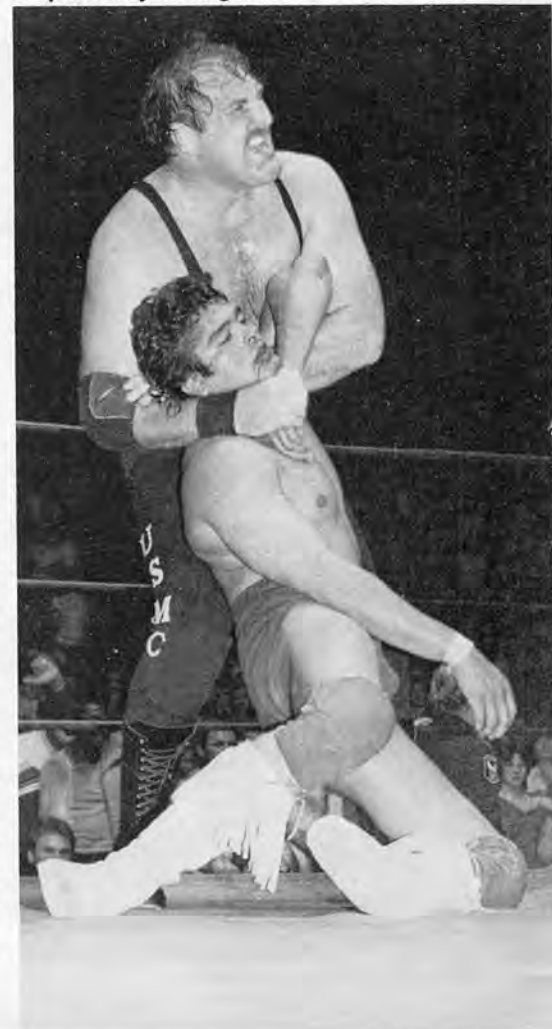
Sgt. Slaughter, Don Kernodle, Jay Youngblood and Ricky Steamboat have battled all over the Mid-Atlantic area. When will this feud end?

For the past six months the Mid-Atlantic area has been the setting for one of the wildest tag team rivalries ever seen. The participants in this fierce competition have been the wild tag-team champions Sgt. Slaughter and "Private" Don Kernodle and everyone's favorites, Ricky Steamboat and Jay Youngblood. Although Steamboat and Youngblood have come close on many occasions to winning the prestigious world tag team belts, the title still belongs to the Sarge and the Private. "Those patsies will never defeat us," Slaughter boasted before one of their recent clashes. "There is absolutely nothing good that I can say about them. They do not have the proper attitude, stamina, training or physical conditioning that we possess. They think

they look cute in the ring, but they fail to realize that this sport is like the service. Only the tough and the strong survive, and you and everyone else know that they haven't even come close to pinning our shoulders to the mat. And you know what, they never will!"

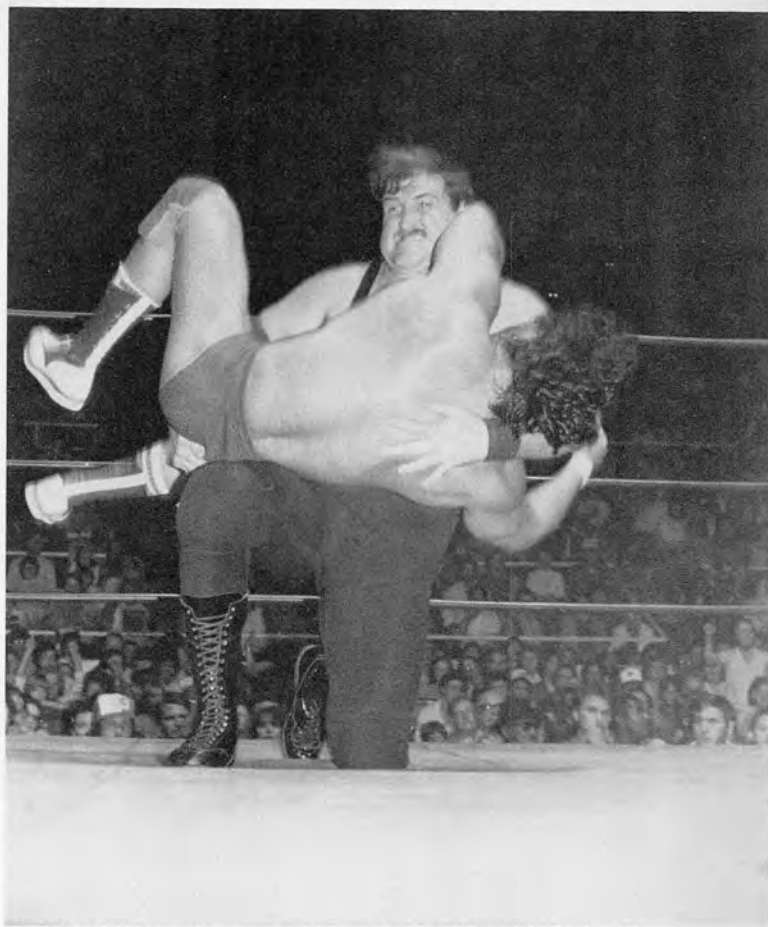
Finally it was time for the world tag team title showdown. Youngblood and Steamboat began the match in their usual fashion, tagging in and out, displaying their tremendous physical ability and wrestling skills. But quickly Slaughter and Kernodle took command of the match. The champions using double teaming and referee distractions continually pounded away at both Youngblood and Steamboat. Soon, however, the tide began to turn as Youngblood and Steamboat mounted an offensive that had Slaughter and Kernodle begging for mercy. But the popular duo were determined not to fall for that old trick. In a flash, Youngblood executed a beautiful reverse

Slaughter applies the pressure on a helpless Jay Youngblood.

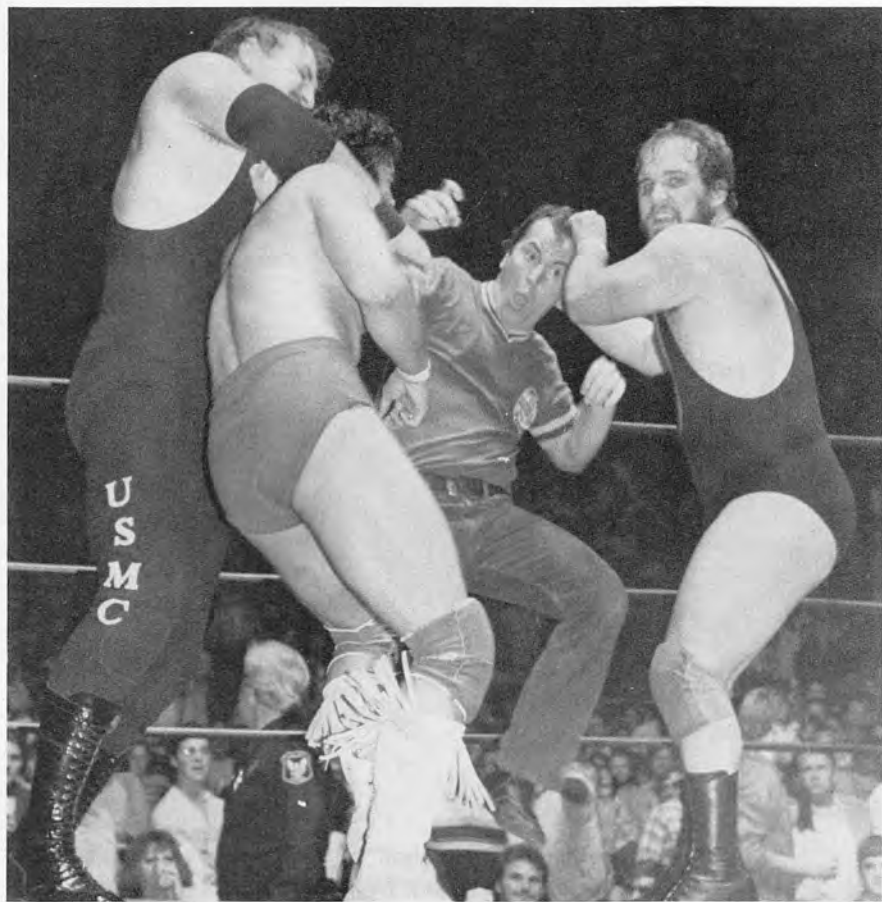




Slaughter stomps Steamboat as Ricky tries to reenter the ring.



Slaughter applies a Backbreaker on Ricky Steamboat.

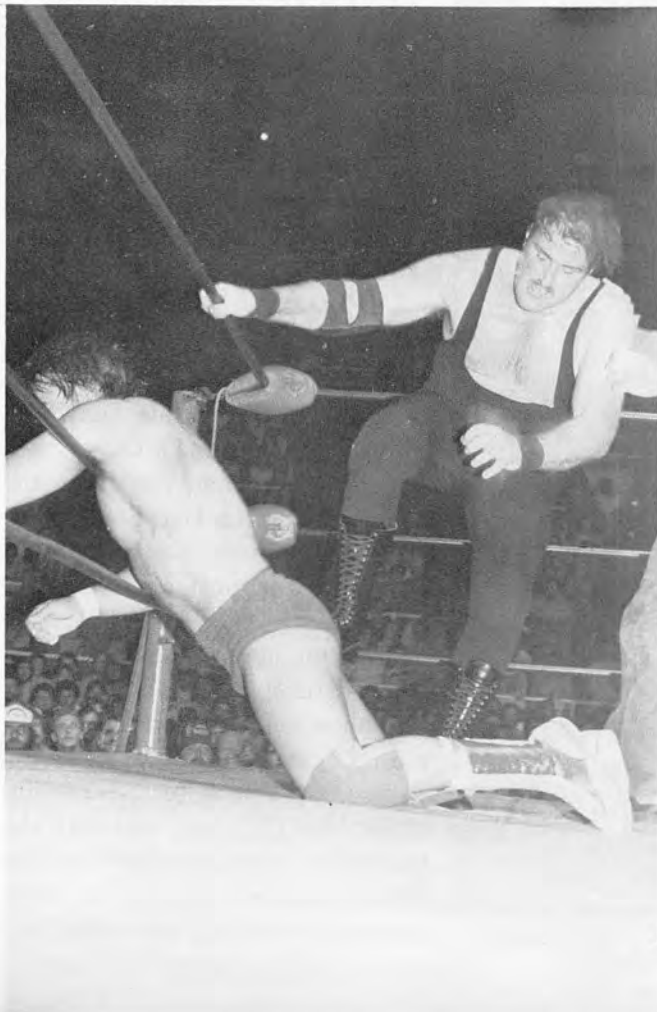


While Kernodle throws the referee from the ring, Slaughter prepares Jay for his deadly Cobra Clutch.

Suplex and Take Down. Slaughter's shoulders were down on the mat as referee Tommy Young began to count. A split second before the three count Slaughter managed to get his foot on the ropes, but Youngblood, thinking that he had pinned Slaughter, jumped up jubilantly. However, his joy was short lived and he was in for quite a shock as the Sergeant hit him from behind knocking him into the mat. In the meanwhile Don Kernodle, who had been closely observing the match, ran from the corner and attacked Steamboat. Kernodle slammed Steamboat into the metal turnpost opening up a huge gash in his head. Then as Youngblood lay on the floor bleeding profusely, Kernodle joined Slaughter in the ring and the champion began to double team the Indian. Slaughter tossed Youngblood into the ropes and with the help of Kernodle, they gave Youngblood a double clothesline across his throat knocking him to the mat.



Steamboat begins to lose consciousness as Slaughter continues to apply a chokehold.



Youngblood and Steamboat team up to take care of Slaughter.



Slaughter's "Cannonball" of the top ropes almost beheads an already shaken Jay Youngblood.

Slaughter continues to stomp on the helpless Ricky Steamboat.

Slaughter then jumped on Youngblood and applied his feared "Cobra Clutch" and as Slaughter applied the pressure, Don Kernodle ran out of the ring and clubbed Ricky Steamboat on the head with a

chair. In a flash Kernodle was back in the ring and the champions were all over the poor helpless Jay Youngblood. Referee Tommy Young tried to intervene, but he soon found himself flying across the ring. Ricky

Steamboat, seeing what was happening to his partner, then ran into the ring swinging a chair, but as soon as Slaughter and Kernodle saw Steamboat entering the ring they quickly bid a hasty retreat to their dressing room. Once order was restored, Ricky Steamboat tried desperately to revive his partner, but Youngblood, who had been badly injured, was not responding. Steamboat then pulled his friend and partner to the edge of the ring and carried Jay away in his arms.

Once in the dressing room immediate medical attention was administered. The diagnosis was that Jay had suffered a torn muscle in his neck.

For six weeks, Jay recuperated and while on the mend all he could think about was Slaughter and Kernodle and what they did to him. "I have no one to blame but myself," he said. "It was a stupid move on my part that got me into this mess but I'll get even one way or another. You should never turn your back on anyone as vicious as Sgt. Slaughter. But, I'm going to use my mistake to my advantage. This will never happen again, and believe me Ricky and I will capture those belts in the very near future."

Although Jay Youngblood is now fully recovered the tag team belts are still around the waists of Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle. Since this incident Youngblood and Steamboat have had numerous opportunities to win the tag team title, but the viciousness of Slaughter and Kernodle have just been too much for Youngblood and Steamboat to overcome. But, they have not given up hope. "Jay and I will do everything in our power to right those wrongs and win the belts. This is all that we have on our minds and we won't ever give up our quest for the crown!"

With that kind of determination there will certainly be many more controversial clashes between Ricky Steamboat, Jay Youngblood, Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle throughout the Mid-Atlantic area. □



Slaughter viciously chokes Steamboat on the ropes.



Kernodle pounds away at a fallen Ricky Steamboat.



B/W photos by George Napolitano

Wrestling's Main Event editor, George Napolitano with Antonio Inoki.

On Tour In Japan

By George Napolitano

Recently this reporter had the pleasure of spending twelve wonderful days in Japan "on tour" photographing the third annual New Japan Pro Wrestling Madison Square Garden Tag Team Tournament for WRESTLING'S MAIN EVENT. The trip and tour were an experience I will never forget and I would like to thank Mr. Hisashi Shinma and the staff of New Japan Pro Wrestling for their wonderful help and cooperation while I was in Japan.

WED. DEC. 1 I left New York on a Pan Am flight bound for Tokyo. After a fourteen hour non-stop flight I arrived in Tokyo tired and cramped but determined to see this beautiful city. On my arrival the time in Tokyo was four PM Thursday afternoon. After clearing customs and immigration Mr. Sugita from the New Japan Pro Wrestling staff drove me to his office to meet with Mr. Shinma and review the tour's itinerary. From there I went to the Keio Plaza hotel in Tokyo for another

meeting, this time with Weekly Fight editor, Mr. Joji Inoue. Finally, after being awake for close to thirty hours, it was time to get some badly needed rest.

FRI. DEC. 3 On Friday morning I met up with Dino Bravo, Rene Goulet and Andre the Giant in the lobby of the Keio Plaza and after reminiscing with old stories and anecdotes it was time to board the tour bus. The bus trip was long and tedious but nevertheless Rene Goulet, Dino Bravo and Andre made it interesting with their stories and good nature. Finally, at six o'clock in the evening after riding for six hours we arrived in Iwaki. In Iwaki the main event of the evening featured an International heavyweight championship match between Tsumi Fujinami and Mexico's El Canek. The match was a real thriller! El Canek and Dragon Fujinami both displayed their fantastic wrestling knowledge and scientific know-how and after 15 minutes and 44 seconds Fujinami upended El Canek to retain his title. Also on the card was a M.S.G. tag team tournament

match between Dick Murdock and the Masked Superstar against Rene Goulet and Andre the Giant. Goulet and the Giant had captured the M.S.G. tournament in 1981 and as defending champion they were once again favored to win. But, as fate would have it, 1982 was just not going to be their year as they were defeated by Murdock and the Masked Superstar in an upset.

SAT. DEC. 4 On Saturday we drove for three and one half hours from Iwaki to Sanai and then another one and a half hours to Ishinomaki. The evening's bouts featured a match involving Killer Kahn and Dino Bravo. In the battle, Dino Bravo was counted out of the ring with the victory going to Killer Kahn. Also on the card was a tag team match involving Dick Murdock and the Masked Superstar and Mexico's El Canek and Pedro Aguayo. Once again the Murdock-Superstar duo was triumphant. After the matches we drove back to Sanai to unwind and go out on the

Hulk Hogan is all smiles as he cuddles up with two Japanese lovelies.

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It caught my eye at once. I had heard about the author—a highly-gifted psychic famous for pioneering in the field of ESP.

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El Canek grabs Kim Duk by the hair and rams his head into the metal turnpost.

Dick Murdock stops for his favorite snack while on tour.



town. Hulk Hogan and I ate in a Korean Barbecue restaurant and later ran into an English speaking Japanese resident who gave us a tour of Sanai. Afterwards we drove through the back streets and narrow roads of Sanai to arrive back at our hotel in time to get a couple of hours of sleep before our wake up call for yet another long bus ride.

SUN. DEC. 5 On Sunday we left Sanai at eight AM and drove to the North of Japan arriving ten hours later at 6 PM in the evening in Aomori. On the bus we watched video cassettes of the movies "Elephant Man" and "M.A.S.H." as well as tapes of several matches that had taken place earlier on the tour. In Aomori, Dick Murdock and the Masked Superstar were victorious for a third time when they defeated the tough Japanese team of Tatsumi Fujinami and Seji Sagaguchi.

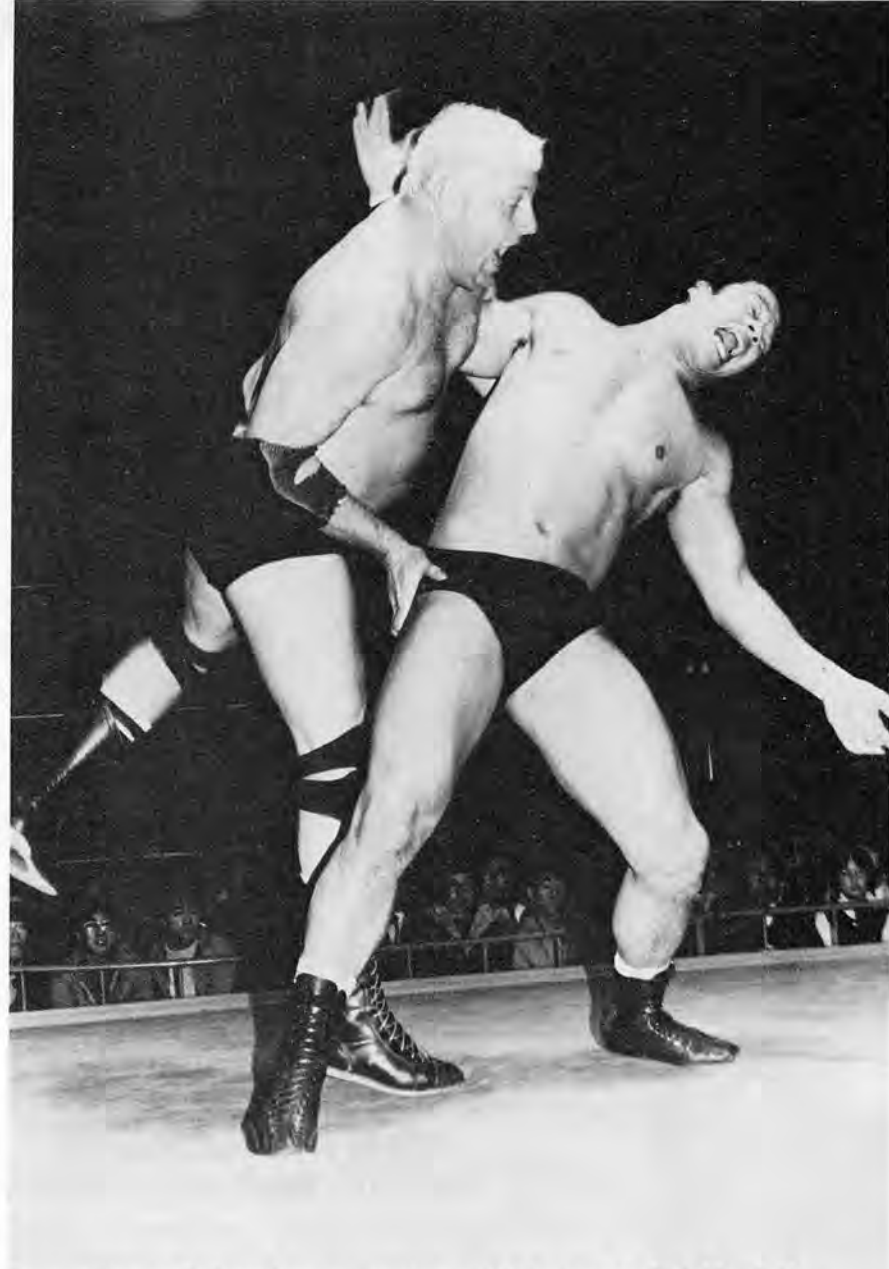
MON. DEC. 6 The following morning we left Aomori at eight AM and arrived in Miyagi at five PM. This trip involved driving through a heavy snowstorm and treacherous mountainous roads. During the long trip the video machine was working overtime again, as we enjoyed "The Sting" and the "Blues Brothers." In Miyagi, Andre and Goulet wrestled Killer Kahn and Tiger Toguchi. In this thrilling battle the Japanese team kept their title hopes alive with a victory over Andre and Goulet. Also on the card was a tag team match involving Japanese favorite, Hulk Hogan and Dragon Fujinami against Dick Murdock and El Canek. In this battle the Hogan-Fujinami team emerged triumphant. Besides these two sensational battles Antonio Inoki wrestled the Masked Superstar. The appearance of Inoki brought the fans to their feet and he did not disappoint them as he defeated the Masked Superstar with a roll up and pin. After

the bout it was back on the bus for a short trip to Sanai to rest for the evening.

TUES. DEC. 7 The following morning, Tuesday, we flew from Sanai to an island in the south of Japan called Takamatsu. The beautiful weather and warm temperatures of the Island were a welcome contrast to Sanai. After arriving in Takamatsu, Hulk Hogan, Tatsumi Fujinami and I went to a Mall where Hogan and Fujinami were scheduled to sign autographs for their many fans who turned out in force! There were close to one thousand people on line desperately trying to get the Hulk's and Fujinami's signatures on their autograph boards. The crowds, anxiety was unfounded since Hulk and Fujinami graciously signed every autograph request. When they left the Mall the appreciative crowd cheered them long and loud. That night there was an S.R.O. crowd on hand to see the matches. In Takamatsu, Andre the Giant caught up with Killer Kahn and this time both men were disqualified for fighting outside the ring. Also on the card was a sensational battle between Dick Murdoch and Antonio Inoki. The match between these two stars was a super encounter and finally after 12:08 Inoki pinned Dick Murdoch to capture the victory.

WED. DEC. 8 We took the train for a short one hour ride to Tokushima. We arrived in Tokushima relaxed and rested and after unpacking, Hulk Hogan and I did a little sight-seeing, ate a few MacDonald's hamburgers and played the latest in video games. That evening Hulk Hogan and Antonio Inoki defeated Dick Murdoch and the Masked Superstar in a tournament bout and proceeded to the finals.

THURS. DEC. 9 On Thursday after a forty-five minute flight we were in Osaka. This time Adrian Adonis and I did a little sight-



Dragon Fujinami executes a beautiful hip toss on Dick Murdoch.

seeing before resting up for the night's card. There was another capacity crowd in attendance as over 12,000 fans jammed the auditorium to watch the bouts. In a tag team tournament match Killer Kahn and Tiger Toguchi defeated Dick Murdoch and the Masked Superstar to also enter the finals. Besides this match there was also an exciting battle between Antonio Inoki and Adrian Adonis which Inoki won after a bloody battle. Rounding out the evening was an exciting match between Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant. This match was yet another of their classic encounters. Both men tried desperately to defeat the other to establish their superiority, but in the end both

men were counted out of the ring and the match was declared a draw.

FRI. DEC. 10 On Friday we boarded the Bullet Train to Tokyo as we neared completion of the tour. After three sensational weeks of matches in which the wrestlers traveled from one end of Japan to the other the third annual M.S.G. tag team tournament finalists were Hulk Hogan and Antonio Inoki against Killer Kahn and Tiger Toguchi.

Before the matches I made three presentations from WRESTLING'S "MAIN EVENT". The first was to Mr. Hisashi Shinma who was presented a plaque for his outstanding work in promoting professional



WME editor, George Napolitano and Andre are ready to depart.

wrestling throughout the world. The second plaque was accepted by Mr. Hisashi Shinma on behalf of Tiger Mask, who for winning two major titles in 1982, was voted 1982 "Wrestler of the Year." The last presentation was to Antonio Inoki who during 1982 accumulated the most points in the in Eastern division of the International Wrestling Grand Prix tournament. After the presentation it was time for the main event.

Over 18,000 fans packed Tokyo's Sumo Palace to watch the wild confrontation between Hulk Hogan and Antonio Inoki against Killer Kahn and Tiger Toguchi. (A report on this match can be found in our feature "Match of the Month") After 32:18 of explosive non-stop action Antonio Inoki and Hulk Hogan were the tournament cham-



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- 1 smiling in ring
- 2 wearing robe
- 3 waving to fans
- 4 with Rogers
- 5 posed in ring
- 6 hitting opponent
- 7 close-up, posed
- 8 making fist

THE STRONGBOWS

- 1 wearing belts
- 2 Jay, alone
- 3 Jules, alone
- 4 together, smiling
- 5 going on warpath
- 6 wearing robes

BOB BACKLUND

- 1 wearing belt
- 2 smiling in ring
- 3 posed, close-up
- 4 climbing ropes
- 5 bleeding badly
- 6 waving to fans
- 7 in action vs. Graham

PEDRO MORALES

- 1 alone, smiling
- 2 wearing belt
- 3 signing autographs
- 4 posed with Andre

DUSTY RHODES

- 1 boogying in ring
- 2 wearing long robe
- 3 rope-match, bloody

SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

- 1 posing, making muscles
- 2 close-up, in ring
- 3 attacking opponent
- 4 in cage-match
- 5 bleeding badly
- 6 posed with Wizard

IVAN PUTSKI

- 1 making muscles
- 2 posed, in ring
- 3 posed with Santana

ANDRE THE GIANT

- 1 waving to fans
- 2 posed, in ring

GAREA & MARTEL

- 1 close-up, smiling together
- 2 posed, in the ring, together

TONY ATLAS

- 1 smiling to fans
- 2 making muscles
- 3 close-up, in ring
- 4 close-up, in dressing room
- 5 lifting opponent in air
- 6 wearing colorful jacket

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1 Lou Albano, bleeding
- 2 Steamboat and Youngblood
- 3 Pat Patterson
- 4 Mil Mascaras
- 5 Tiger Mask
- 6 Hulk Hogan
- 7 Don Morocco
- 8 Rocky Johnson
- 9 Bruno Sammartino
- 10 Tito Santana

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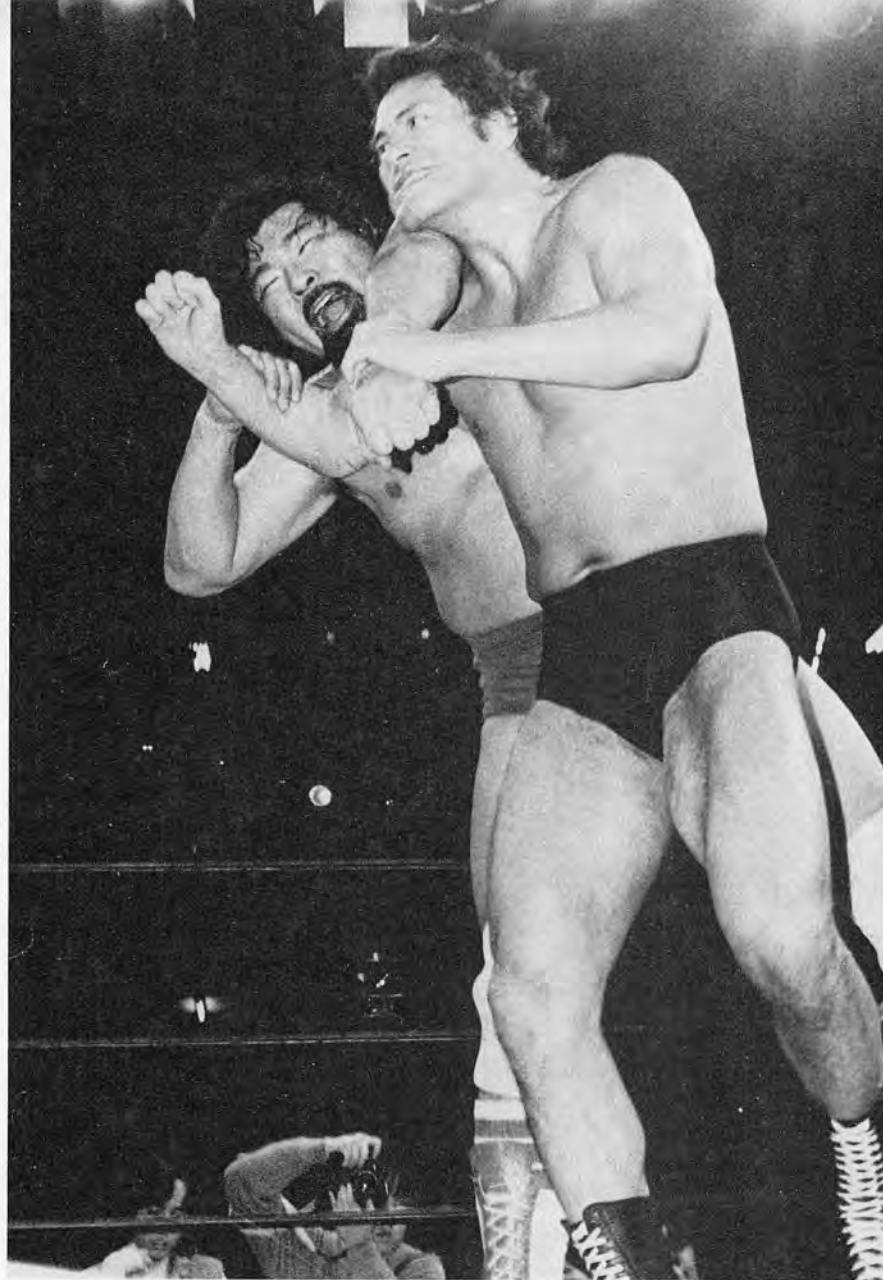
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**Antonio Inoki works over
Kim Duk in their Tokyo match.**

pions. After their victory numerous trophies and plaques were presented to the tournament winners by the staff of New Japan Pro Wrestling and the wrestling media.

Finally, the tournament was over. During my ten day stay in Japan we traveled by bus, train, plane and visited a different city every night. With this frantic schedule it was virtually impossible to see the many wonders of Japan but that will have to wait for another time.

Once again I would like to thank Mr. Hisashi Shinma, Mr. Peter Takahashi and the staff of New Japan Pro Wrestling for extending their warm hospitality to this American reporter. Their warmth and sincerity will be forever appreciated.

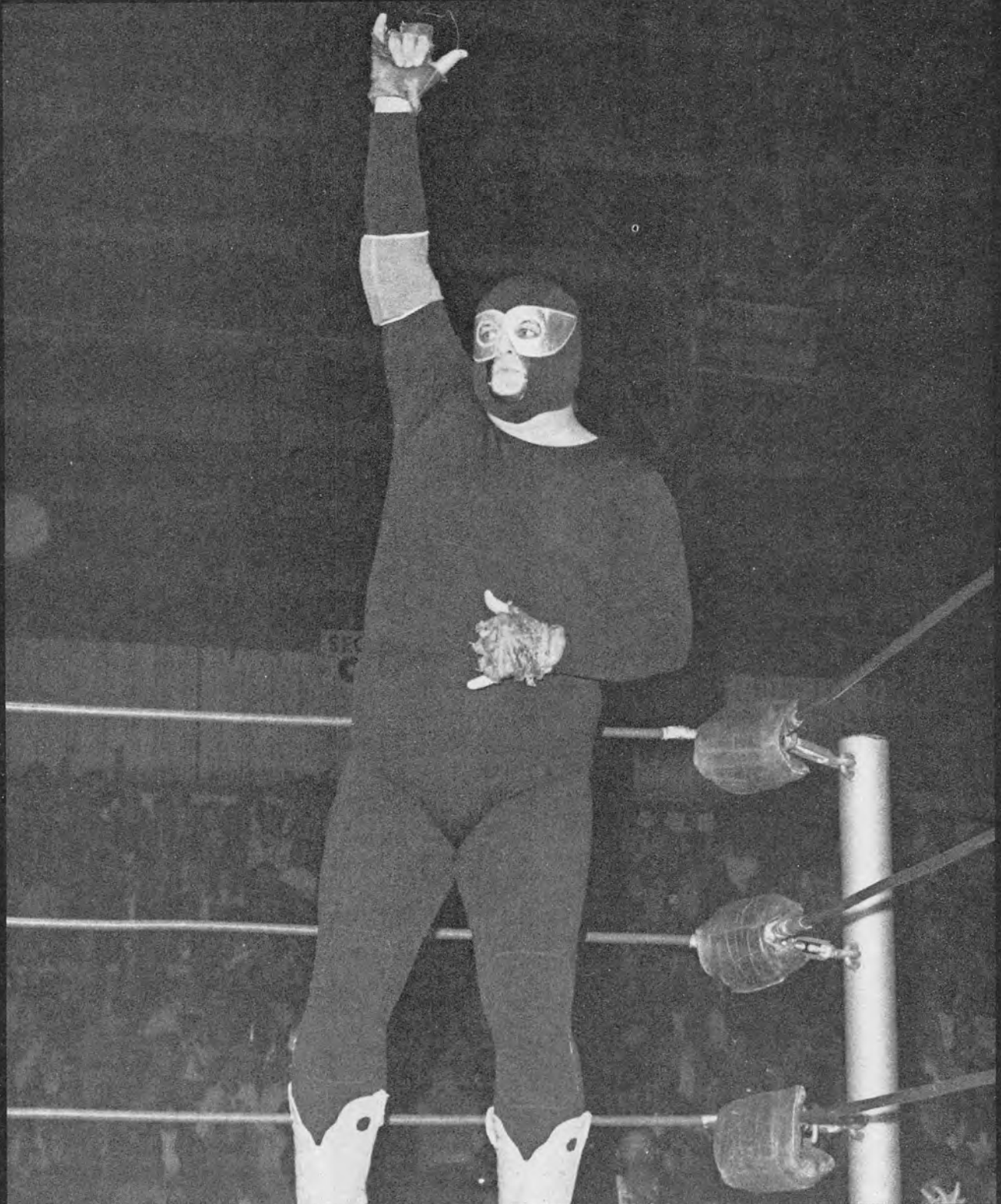
I hope you enjoy this capsule look into the makeup of a Japanese tour, and appreciate the incredible hectic pace wrestlers endure. Everyone on the tour spent twenty-one nights on the road; traveling in buses, eating Japanese food, sleeping in rooms much too small for your average wrestler let alone Andre the Giant; having to endure endless conversations with people who do not understand anything you are trying to say. These are just a few of the little problems that the wrestlers face when they travel to Japan or any foreign country for that matter. Contrary to what many people believe, a professional wrestler's life is not all glamour and excitement. It takes a lot of hard work, stamina and inner strength to make it to the top and those who possess these qualities survive. This trip is just a little sample of the kind of life these athletes must endure 365 days of the year. After reviewing this, we here at MAIN EVENT hope that you have a better understanding of the kind of hectic schedule a professional wrestler follows every day of the year. □



Wrestling's Main Event editor, George Napolitano stands in the ring with Antonio Inoki, Mr. Hisashi Shinma and other dignitaries.

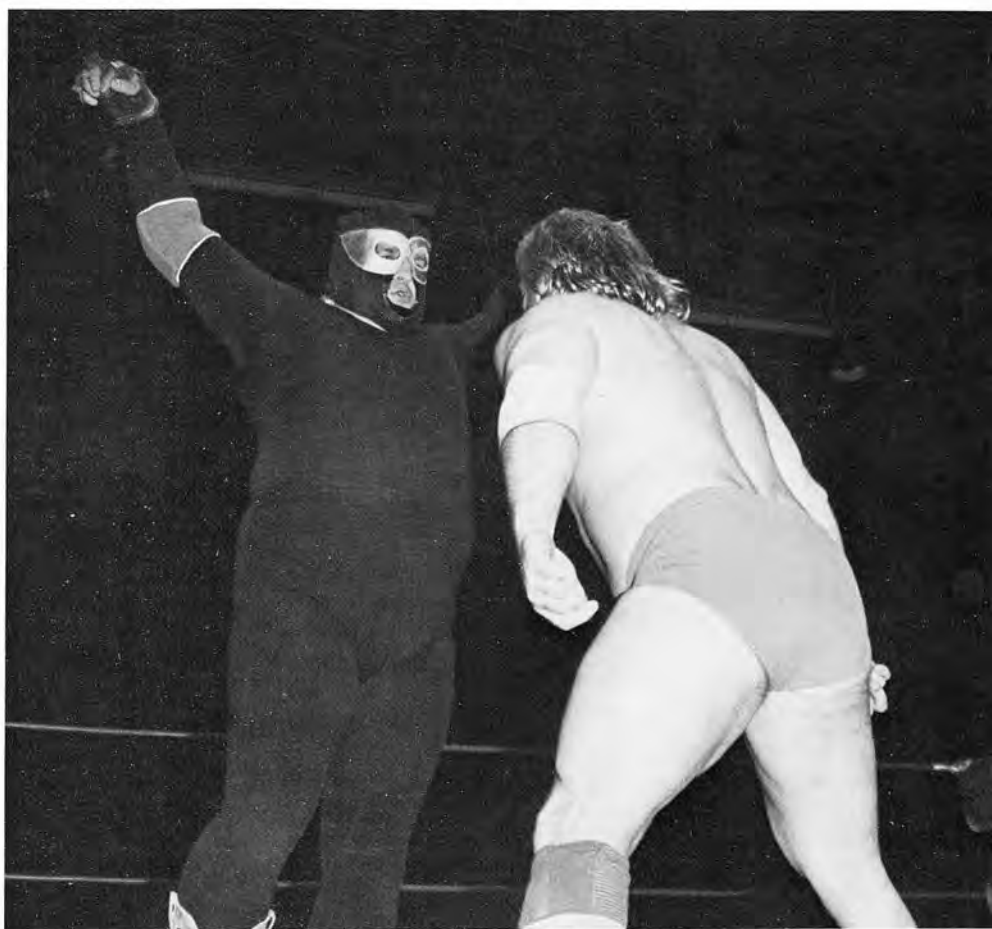
Who Is The Midnight Rider?

by George Napolitano



Who is the Midnight Rider? The true identity of this mysterious masked man has the Sunshine State in a state of frenzy. "There is no doubt in my mind that the Midnight Rider is none other than Dusty Rhodes!" J.J. Dillon yelled to everyone within earshot. "All you have to do is look at that character and anyone in their right mind would know that the Midnight Rider and the fat blubber boy are one and the same person. Well, he thinks he's pulling a fast one on us, but he's gonna be in for a big surprise. I'm going straight to the NWA executive office in Kansas City to talk to Bob Geigel in person about this matter and when I return we will never see the likes of Dusty Rhodes in this sport anymore."

Why is J.J. Dillon so upset? To find out the answer one must first know what transpired on Christmas night in the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg. On Christmas night Dusty Rhodes faced the maniacal Kevin Sullivan in a "Loser Leave Town" cage match. To add to the evening's festivities there were several "Santa Clauses" on hand handing out candy canes to the children in attendance. It wasn't Santa Claus, however, that attracted the large crowd. It was the thought of seeing Kevin Sullivan driven out of Florida once and for all. Everyone hoped that on this joyous night they would finally get rid of Sullivan and his sick satanic black magic. Although this is what many fans were hoping for, the outcome was quite different. During the heat of battle one friendly Santa Claus began to distribute candy to the crowd from the sack hanging over his shoulder. This same Santa Claus then walked over to the cage, opened the door and gave a present to Kevin Sullivan. Santa quickly vacated the premises as Sullivan gleefully opened up his "Christmas" gift and immediately put his present to good use. Sullivan's gift was

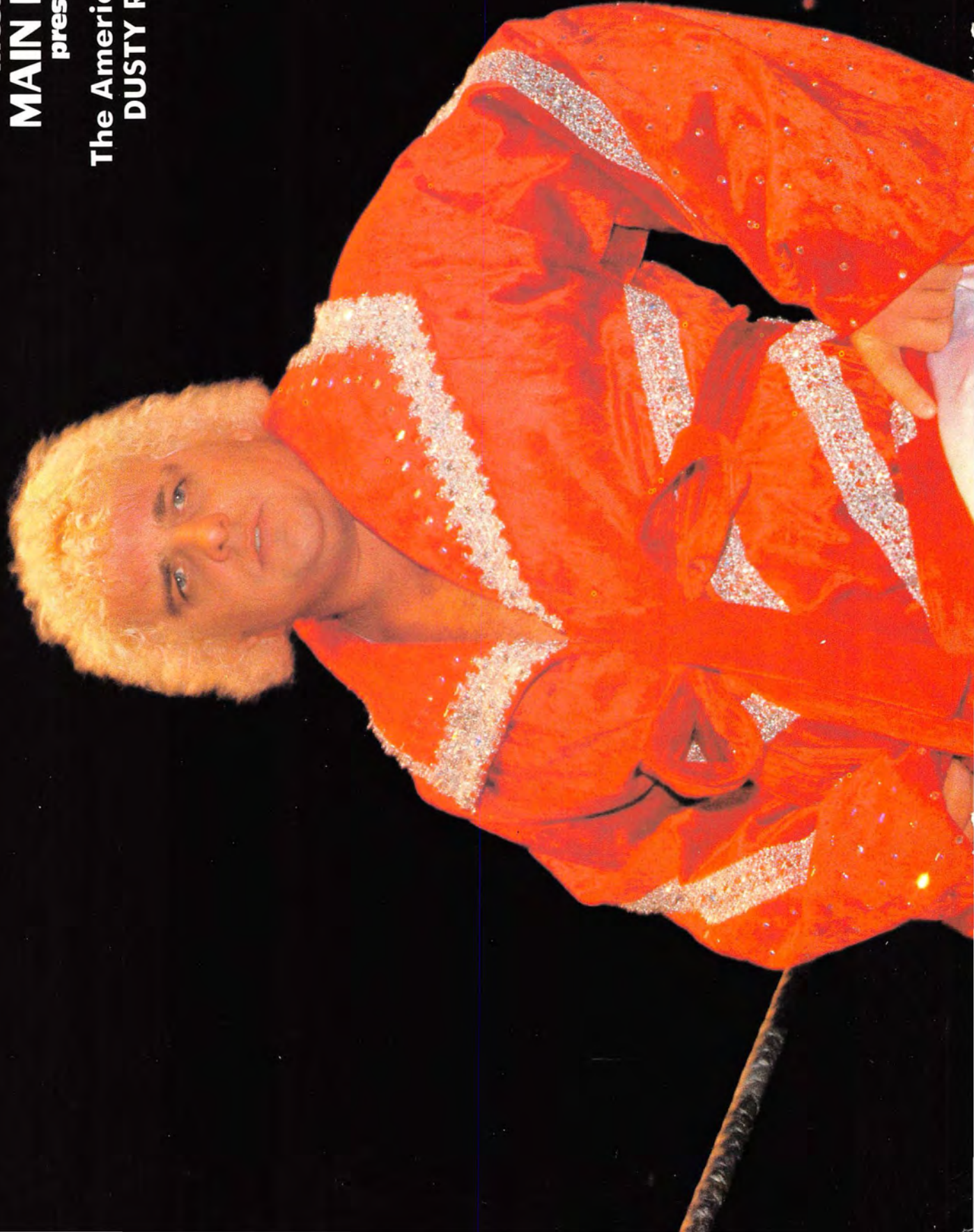


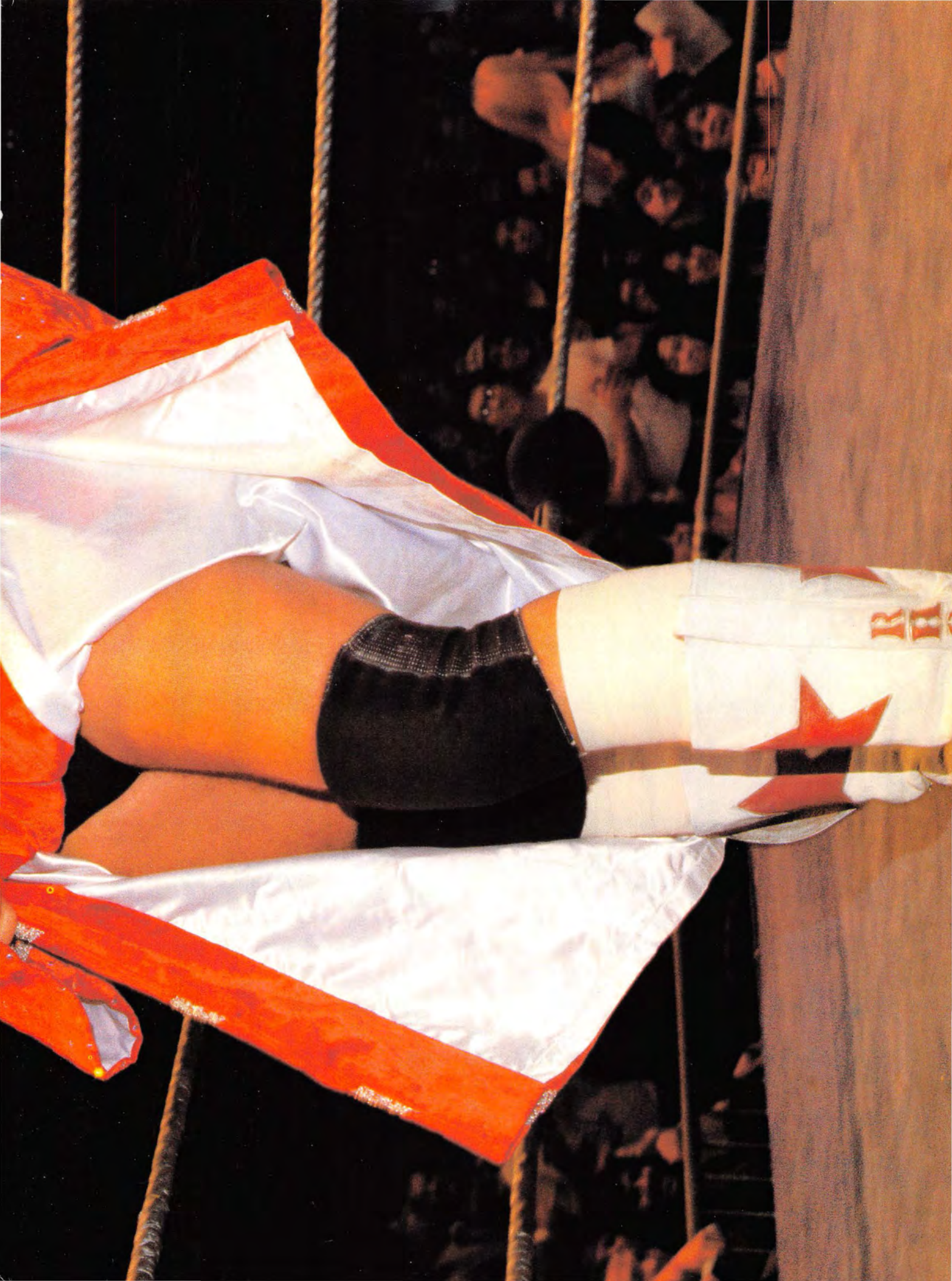
The Midnight Rider pounds away at Kevin Sullivan.

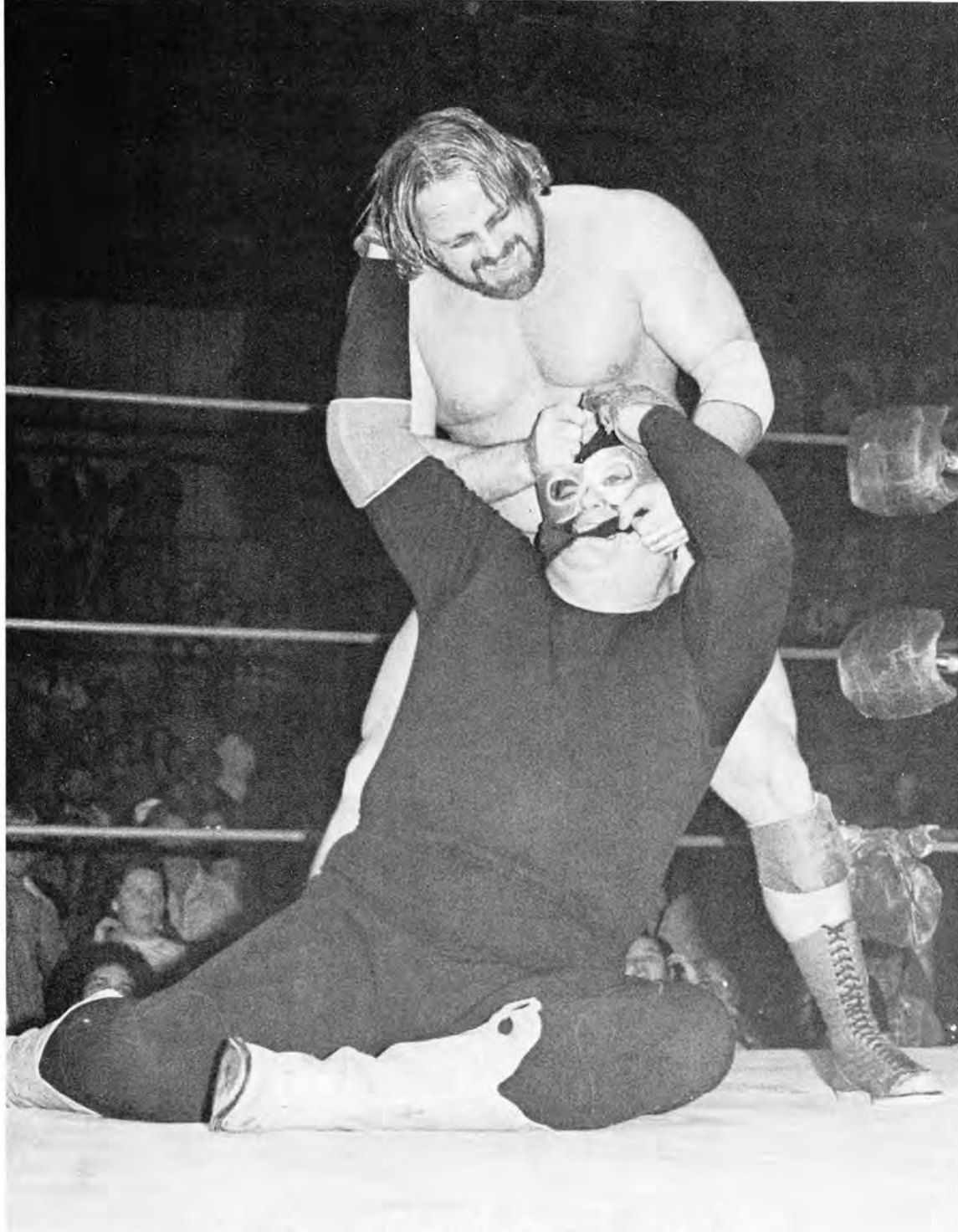


The Midnight Rider kicks J.J. Dillon.

Wrestling's
MAIN EVENT
presents
The American Dream
DUSTY RHODES







Sullivan attempts to unmask the mysterious Midnight Rider.

a pair of brass knuckles and with them the crazed wrestler knocked Dusty Rhodes out cold! The referee then counted and Kevin Sullivan was declared the winner!

The fans were buzzing; tension filled the air. Who was Santa Claus? What possessed Sullivan to use such a jovial character to do such a dastardly deed? Have we seen the last of Dusty Rhodes? At first the answer to these questions was a mystery; but soon the truth was learned! Santa Claus was none

other than Jake Roberts! Kevin Sullivan had paid Roberts a hefty sum to perpetrate this depraved use of the classic Christmas symbol. Despite the duplicity of Sullivan's victory it was sadly announced that Dusty Rhodes, as per the term of the contract would no longer be allowed to wrestle in Florida. This announcement thrilled Kevin Sullivan, Jake Roberts, J.J. Dillon and the rest of his vile crew! They would no longer have to contend with Dusty Rhodes. But their

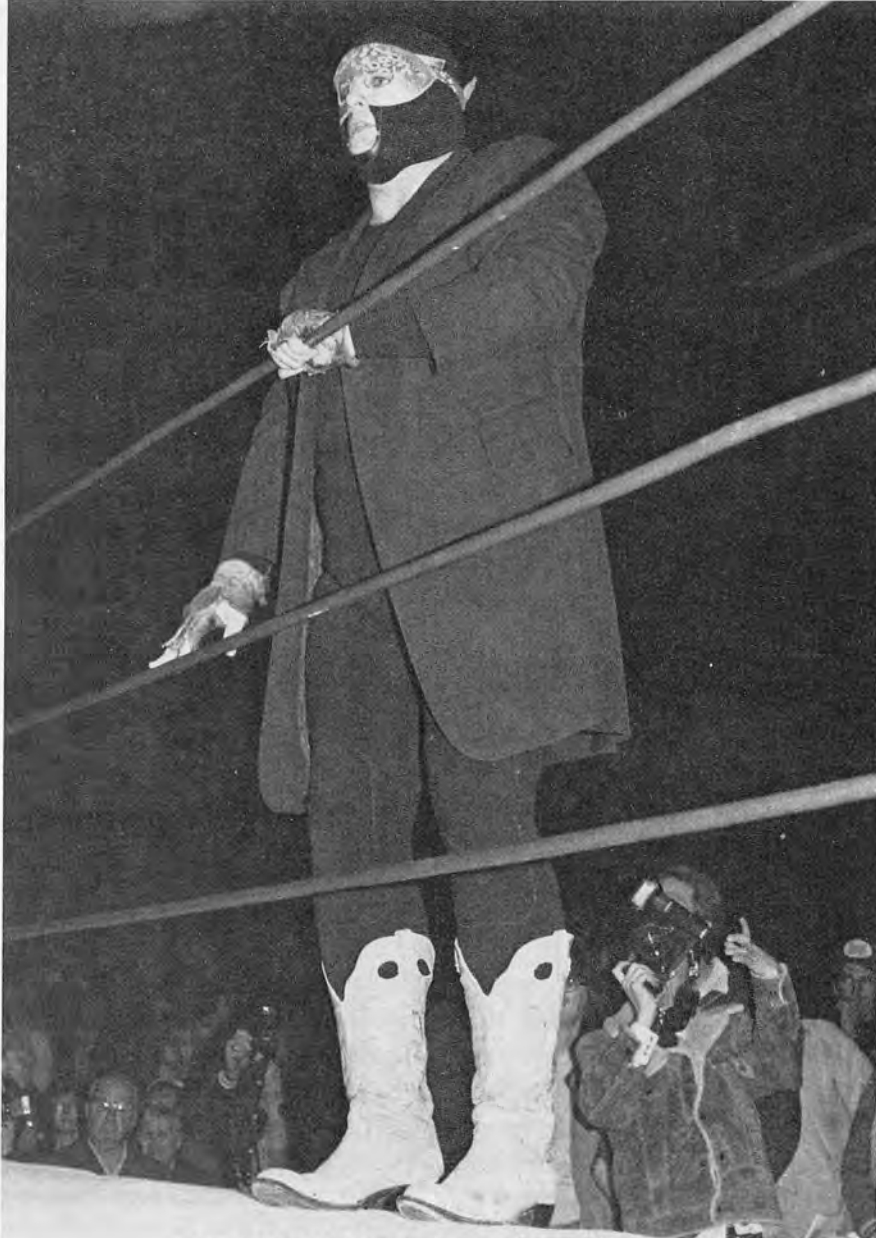
celebration was short lived because as soon as Dusty left, the Midnight Rider appeared.

From the moment that the mysterious Midnight Rider appeared in the Sunshine State, he began to clean up the area like a latter day Wyatt Earp in Dodge City. In just a few short weeks the Midnight Rider had completely dominated Florida like no other wrestler before. Although the Midnight Rider resembles Dusty's style and physique no one knew for certain if they are

indeed one and the same person, but J.J. Dillon is determined to learn the truth. After meeting in Kansas City with NWA president Bob Geigel, Dillon returned to Florida more determined than ever to find out the real identity of the Midnight Rider. Geigel explained to Dillon that his word alone was not enough to prove that Rhodes was indeed the Midnight Rider. "I need positive proof before I can make a ruling," said Geigel. "If Rhodes is the Midnight Rider and this is proven in front of an NWA representative he will be suspended for one year nationwide, but as far as I know now, Dusty Rhodes is not violating any NWA rules since he is not wrestling in Florida as per the terms of his "Loser Leave Town" bout."

Right now J.J. Dillon is offering \$1,000 to anyone who can unmask the Midnight Rider and the list of men waiting in line to get a crack at the money keeps growing and growing everyday. So far, Bad, Bad Leroy Brown, "King Kong" Angelo Mosca, Kevin Sullivan, Snake Roberts and even NWA World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair have been unsuccessful in their attempt to unmask the Midnight Rider. Will anyone be able to remove his hood? "This imposter has got to be stopped," snarled a determined J.J. Dillon. "I want his mask." I want his hide! If anyone is able to put him in a hospital, I am willing to give that person a check for \$10,000! That's how badly I want to prove my point. Dusty Rhodes lost a "loser leave town" match and if he is the Midnight Rider, which I know he is, he is violating the terms of the contract. For this reason alone he should be suspended from wrestling for life! I will not give up until justice has prevailed."

Right now it looks like the Midnight Rider is here to stay. Unless someone can unmask this fearsome grappler, the wrestling world may just have to contend with a new superstar. □



The Midnight Rider prepares to enter the ring.



The Midnight Rider and Barry Windham are victorious.

Will KEN PATERA Ever Win The World's Title?

by George Napolitano

Would you believe that it's now ten years since the "World's Strongest Man" Ken Patera first appeared on the wrestling scene. It seems like only yesterday, Ken Patera was the pride of the U.S. Olympic team, America's hope of gold and glory. Today, ten years later Ken Patera is still going strong and he is the pride of the wrestling world. These past ten years have been real good to me," Ken reflected. "I've traveled all over the country, faced the toughest men, won my fair share of titles and accumulated a considerable sum of money. But, no matter what a person has accomplished in his life he is still never satisfied until he is recognized as the best in his profession. Hey, I'm still held in very high esteem. I've accomplished a great deal. There still isn't a professional wrestler around today that is stronger or better known than me but I still feel that I have more to accomplish. I have always strived for perfection in this sport, and perfec-

tion is determined by the number of championships you hold. Right now I'm not ashamed to say that I don't have any titles, but this will change soon."

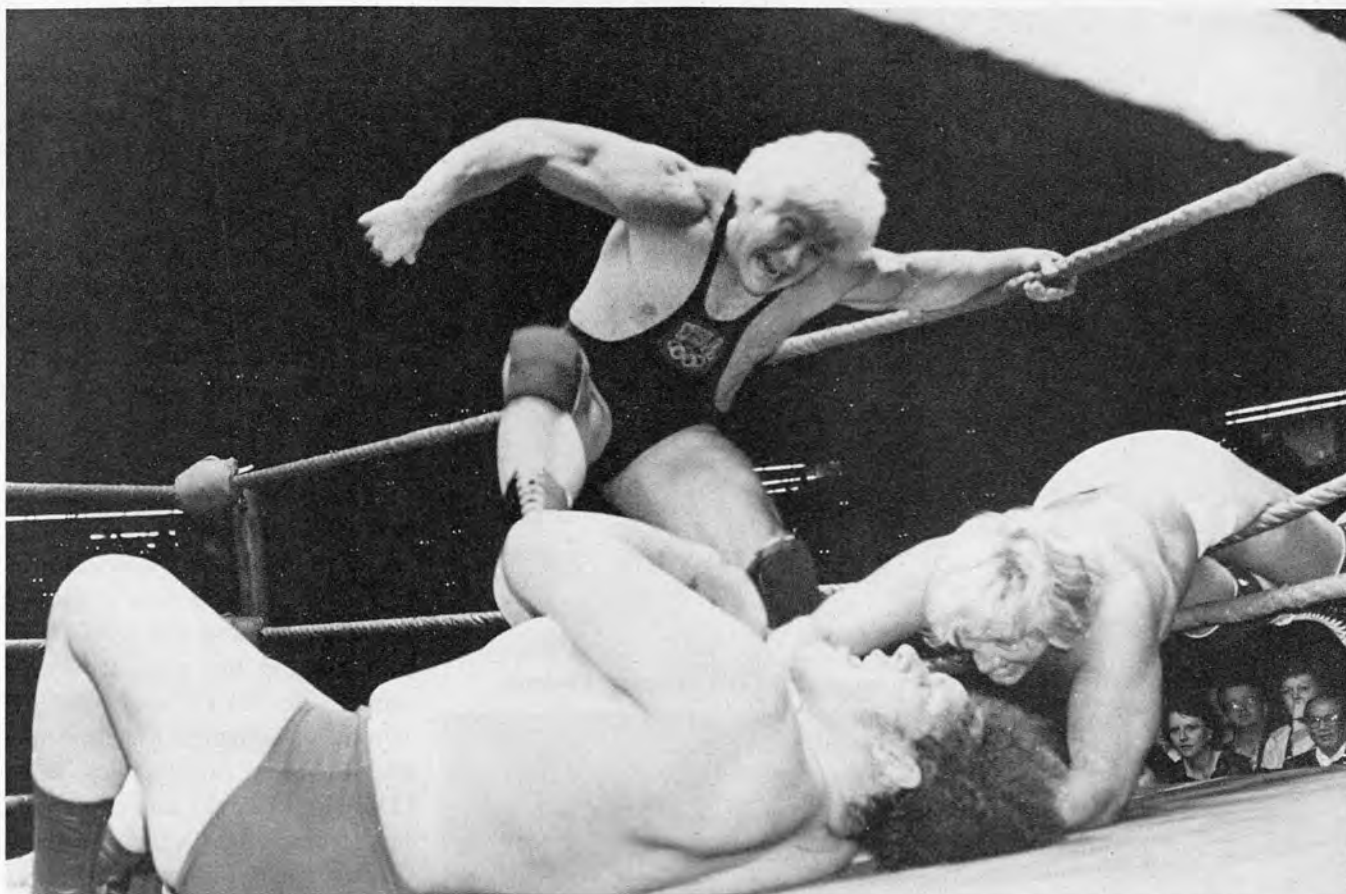
Before we discuss Ken Patera's future goals it may be interesting to review some of his incredible accomplishments.

Ken Patera was born in Portland, Oregon and as a youngster he became interested in weight training. After high school Patera entered Brigham Young University on a track and field scholarship. During his collegiate days, Patera captured the N.C.A.A. indoor championship in the shot-put. Eventually, he began to devote more time to weight lifting and it wasn't long before Ken was a world class weight lifter. Serving as an alternate in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico, Ken dedicated the next four years of his life to becoming a member of the 1972 U.S. Olympic team. Between 1968 and 1972 Ken worked out constantly. In short he became the top weight lifter in America, winning the National

weightlifting championship for four consecutive years. In 1971 just prior to the Munich Olympics, Patera captured four gold medals and set four new World records in the Pan American games. In 1972 Patera was indeed ready for the Olympics. In Munich he won a bronze medal for himself and America.

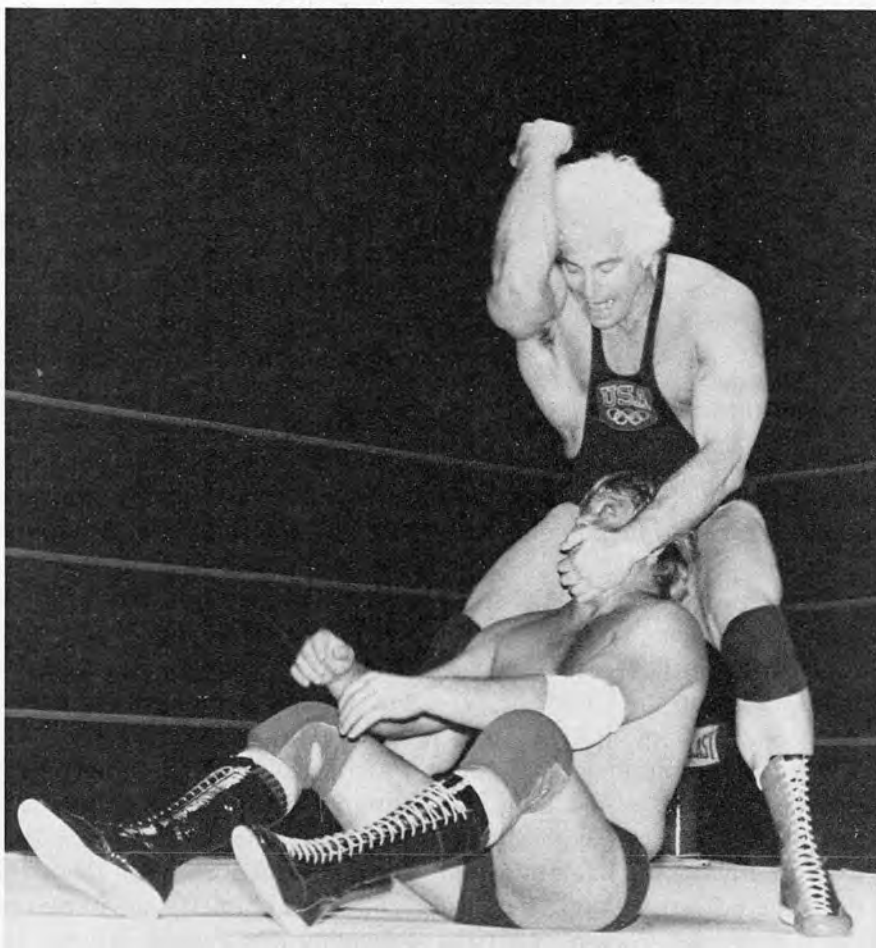
After the Olympics Ken Patera trained for several months under the watchful eye of Verne Gagne and Billy Robinson. Once he learned all the techniques of his new profession, he was ready to make his professional debut. In Jan. 1973 Ken Patera had his first professional match and since then he has amassed an incredible string of victories.

Early in his career Ken Patera wrestled strictly by the book. Using this approach Patera met with mild success, but he had yet to really establish himself as a top contender. Those early years were hard on Patera, but Ken recalls them fondly. "When I first started it was hard. I immediately had a reputation to



Ken Patera aided by his manager, Bobby Heenan stomps on the fallen Andre the Giant.

B/W photos by Larry Barnhizer



Patera prepares to Elbow Smash Ray Stevens.

uphold due to my Olympic record and there were many veterans who tried to take advantage of me. I'll admit that some guys gave me a rough time at first, but I was usually able to overcome my lack of experience with my strength. One guy who I was matched against constantly in those early years was Superstar Billy Graham. I competed against him in arm wrestling, weight lifting, feats of strength, cage matches and bull rope matches. You name the contest and take my word for it we competed against each other in it. But as strong as Graham claimed to be he was never quite able to beat me in any kind of encounter that required sheer physical strength. I remember being matched against him repeatedly in the AWA area and again in 1974 this time in Texas. My only regret is that I never had a chance to wrestle him when he held the WWF World championship. I wanted that match so bad and to this day I still believe that if I were given a chance against Graham with the WWF title at



Ken pounds away at a hurt and helpless Ray "The Crippler" Stevens.



Stevens grimaces in Pain as Patera continues to stomp away.

stake I would be champion today."

In 1976 Ken Patera embarked upon his first tour of the WWF, and Patera credits Captain Lou Albano for "opening up his eyes" and "making him a star." "Before arriving on the East Coast I won several titles but I still felt something was missing: a key ingredient to complete success. And, it was Captain Lou Albano that pointed out this missing ingredient. As you can guess, prior to coming East, I was a little too easy going, a little too soft on my opponents. I learned never to be easy, never to be

soft. Only the tough and only the strong survive in this sport and since that day I've not only survived but prevailed!"

During his ten years in the sport Ken Patera has wrestled Bruno Sammartino, the former WWF champion; Bob Backlund the current WWF champion; Ric Flair the NWA champion and also Nick Bockwinkel, the AWA king. Although Ken Patera holds victories over Sammartino, Backlund and Flair the powerful Patera has just not been able to win the title. "What can I say," Patera sadly

confesses when asked about these champions. "I had my chance and everyone knows that I defeated Bruno Sammartino; I defeated Bob Backlund and I also defeated Ric Flair. But, unfortunately a title cannot change hands by a count-out, a disqualification or in a match which has been stopped by a doctor for excessive bleeding. Just ask Bruno Sammartino who was his toughest opponent; ask Bob Backlund who has given him the most trouble; ask Ric Flair why he refuses to wrestle me? Then you will know why I don't have a title now. But this situation will change. Mark my words for it. As soon as I finish up around here I plan on traveling around the world again and making my presence known worldwide. As far as Nick Bockwinkel is concerned, he's a close friend. We are family; Nick, Bobby (Duncum) Heegan and me. I would never challenge Nick although I did wrestle him once after being in the sport for only a year. That match was not one of my more memorable bouts, and I'm certain that if we were to wrestle today it would be very interesting. But, I am not looking for a match against Nick. Right now Bobby Duncum and I are after the World's tag team title, and we have chased Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell all over the country. They can run, but they can't hide for long. Bobby and I will get them. It's inevitable. I'll admit that they are good wrestlers, but there really is no comparison between their skills, physical strength and endurance when compared to ours."

What's next for Ken Patera? Will he ever win a World title? There is no denying that Ken Patera is tough, strong, big and powerful. No one will ever question Ken Patera's skills, physical ability, wrestling knowledge, sheer animalistic brutality, charisma, charm and total confidence. With all of this working for him, it's inevitable that someday Ken Patera will rule the wrestling world. □





MATCH OF THE MONTH TOKYO, JAPAN

ANTONIO INOKI & HULK HOGAN VS. KILLER KAHN & KIM DUK

A PHOTO FEATURE BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO
AND KOICHI YOSHIZAWA

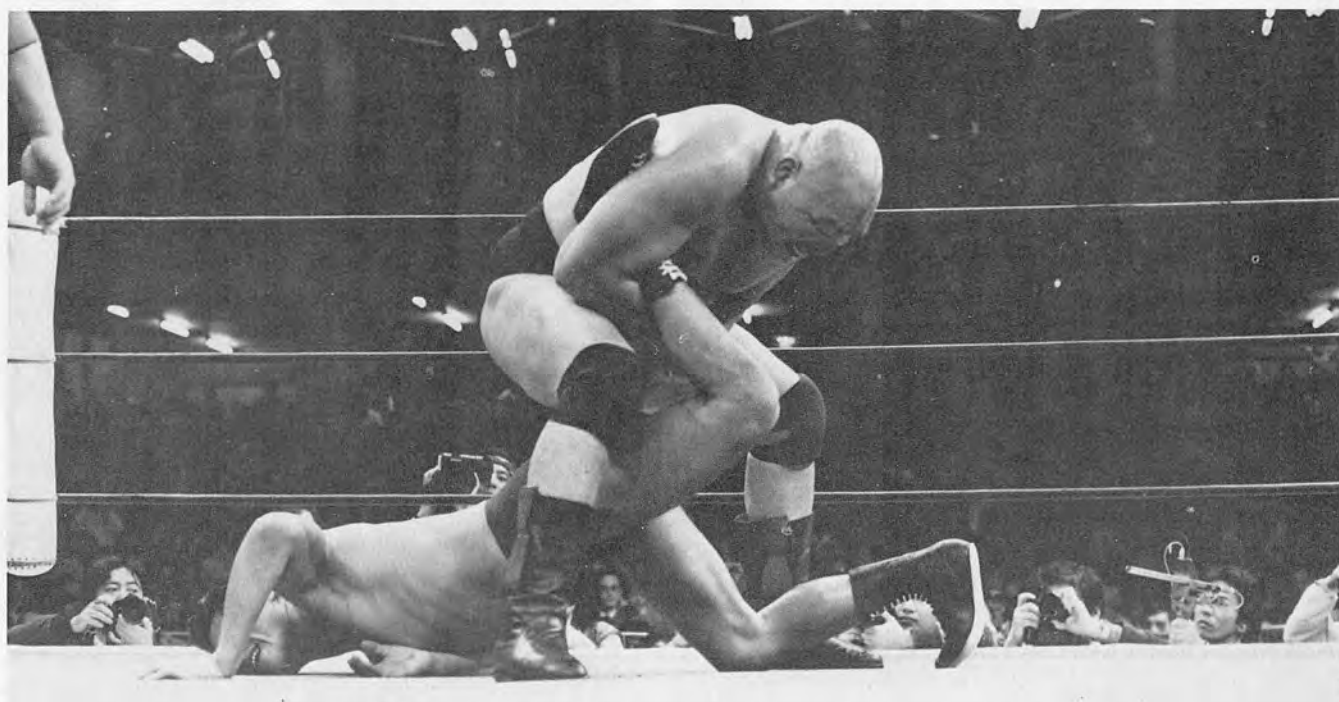
After three weeks of tournament matches the finalist in the recent Madison Square Garden Tag Team Tournament were Hulk Hogan and Antonio Inoki and Killer Kahn and Kim Duk (Tiger Toguchi). Tokyo's Sumo Palace was packed to capacity as 18,000 fans turned

out to witness the finals of this all important tag team tournament.

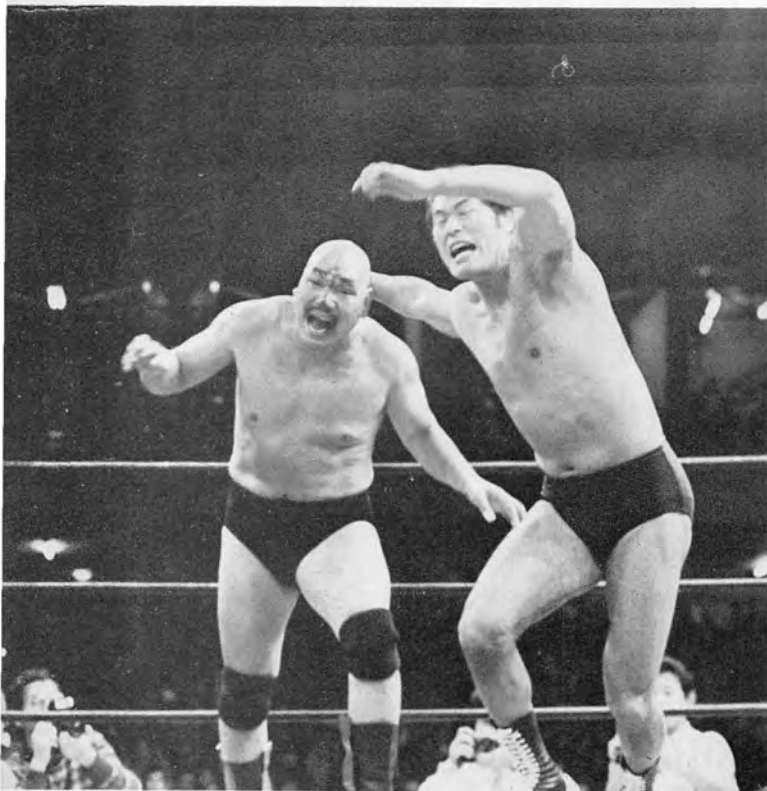
For thirty minutes both teams fought with reckless abandon in hope of winning the title, but the Hogan-Inoki duo was getting the better of their adversaries. Finally, at the thirty-two minute mark,

Antonio Inoki pinned Kim Duk (Tiger Toguchi) to win the match and the Madison Square Garden Tag Team Trophy for his team.

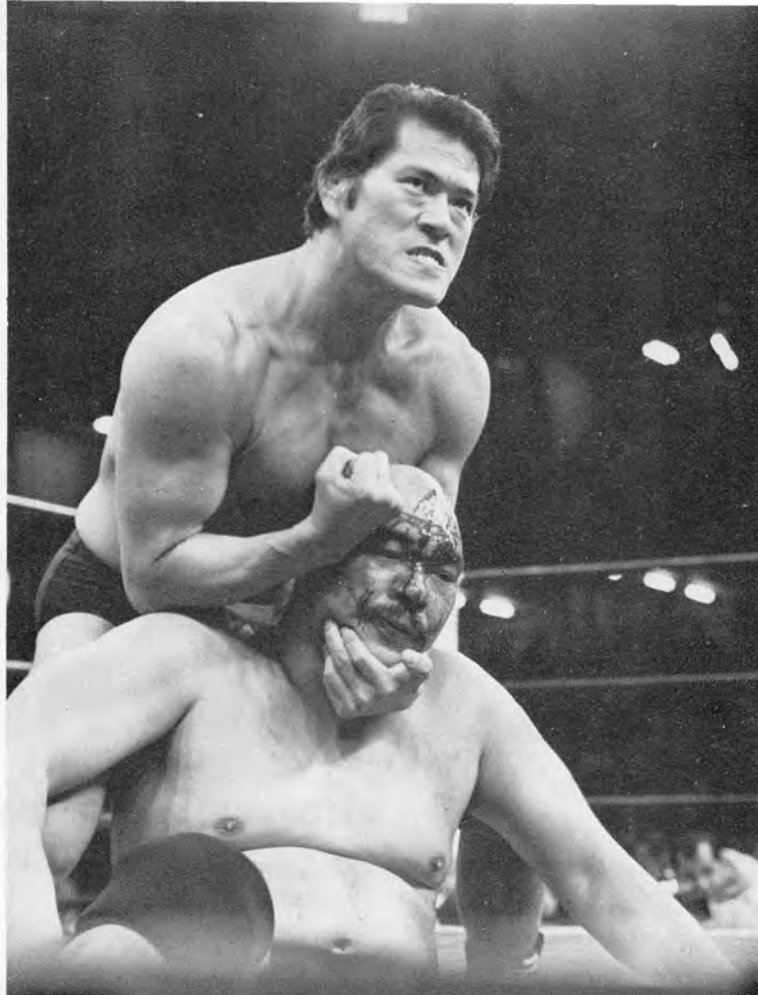
The photos on the following pages highlight the ferocious action that took place in the Sumo Palace in Tokyo, Japan.



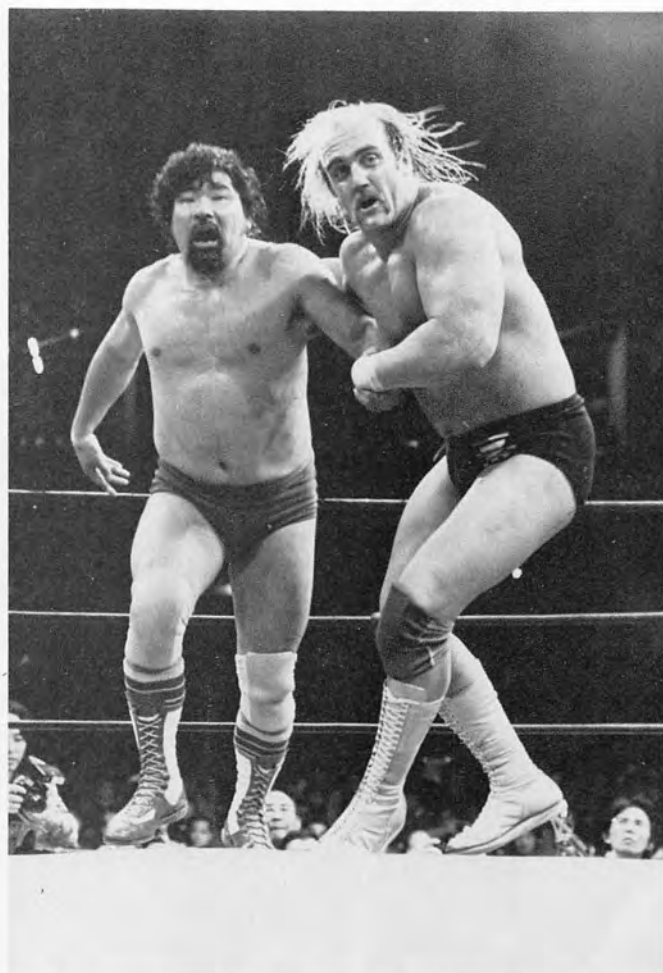
Kahn has Inoki in trouble as he applies the One Leg Boston Crab.



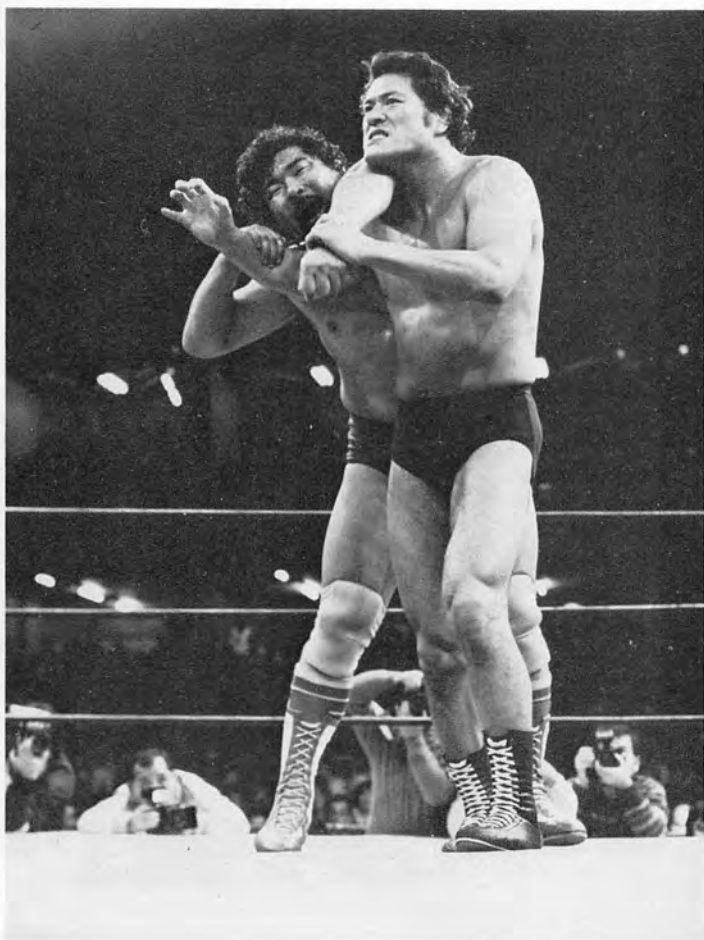
Inoki sends Killer Kahn sailing across the ring.



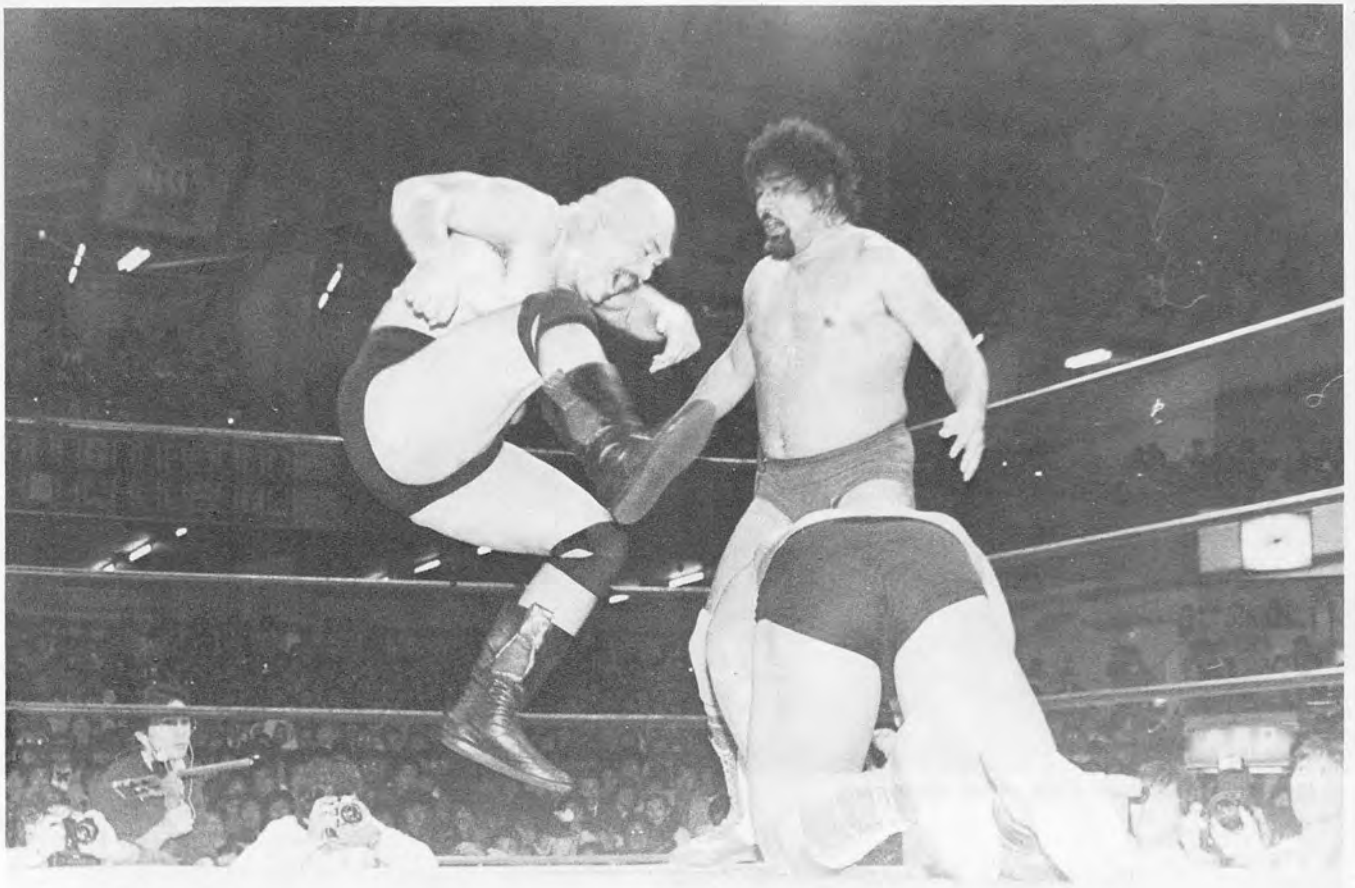
Kahn is a bloody mess as Inoki pounds away.



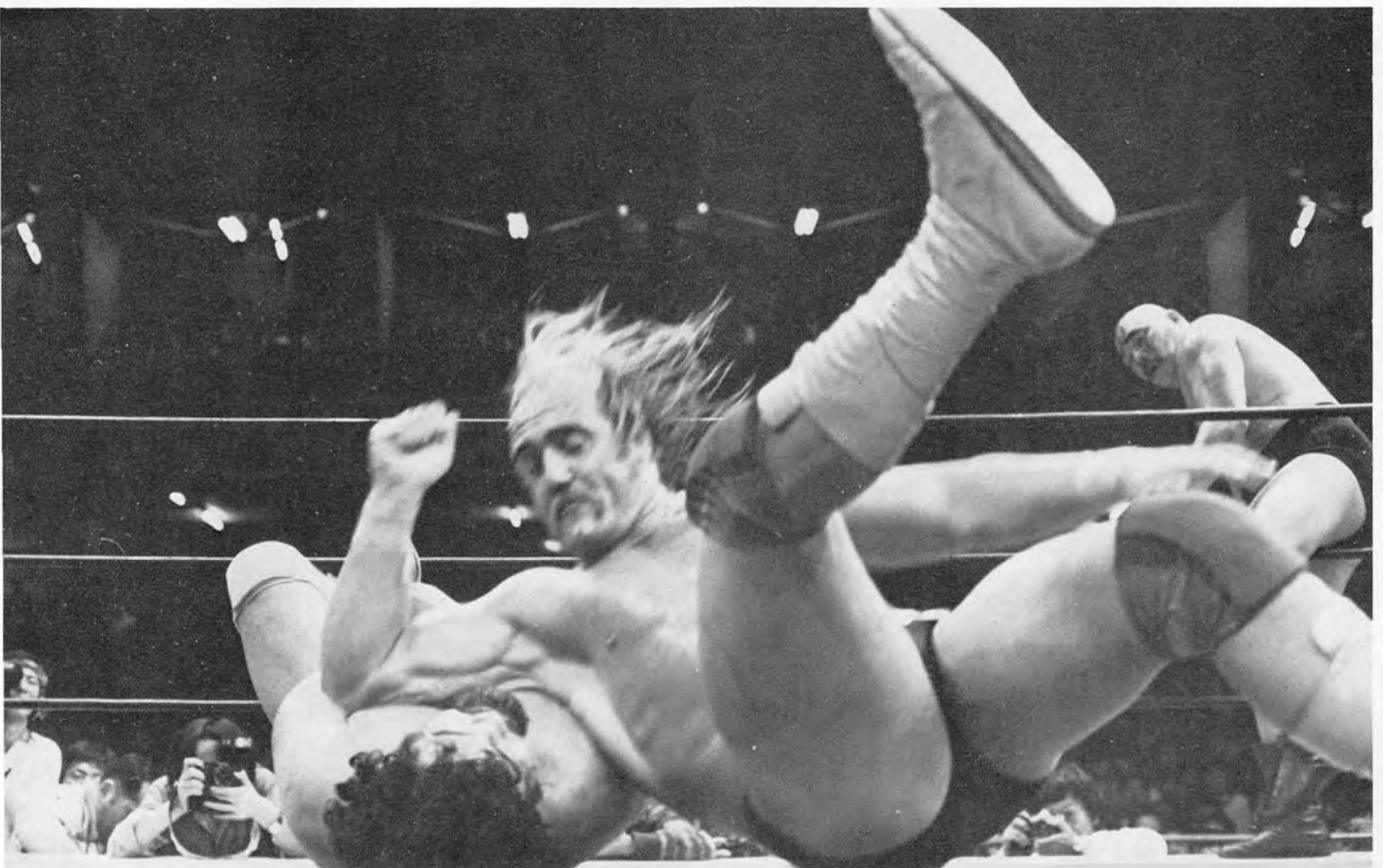
Hulk Hogan tosses Kim Duk across the ring.



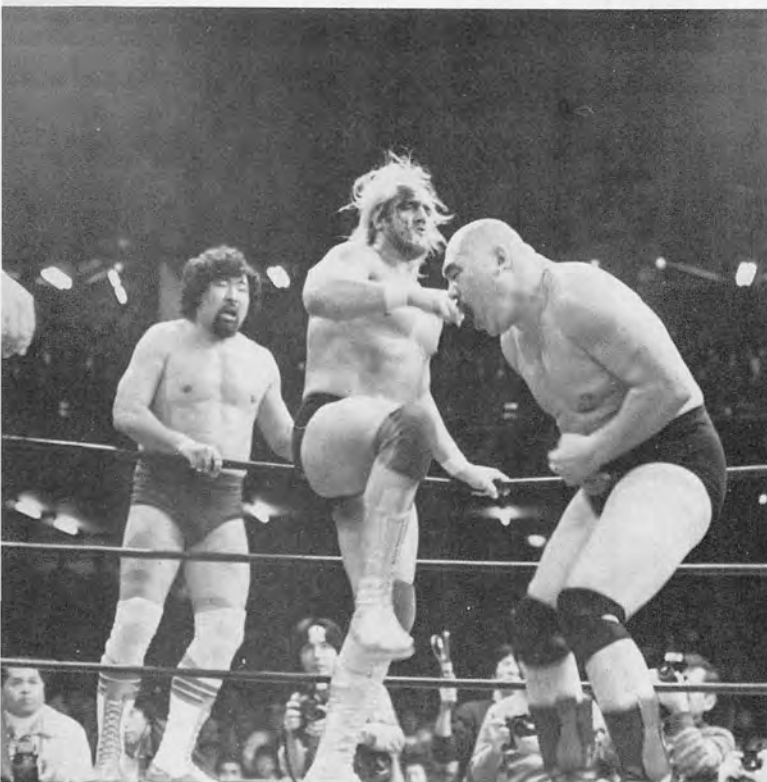
Antonio Inoki bends Kim Duk's arm during the wild match.



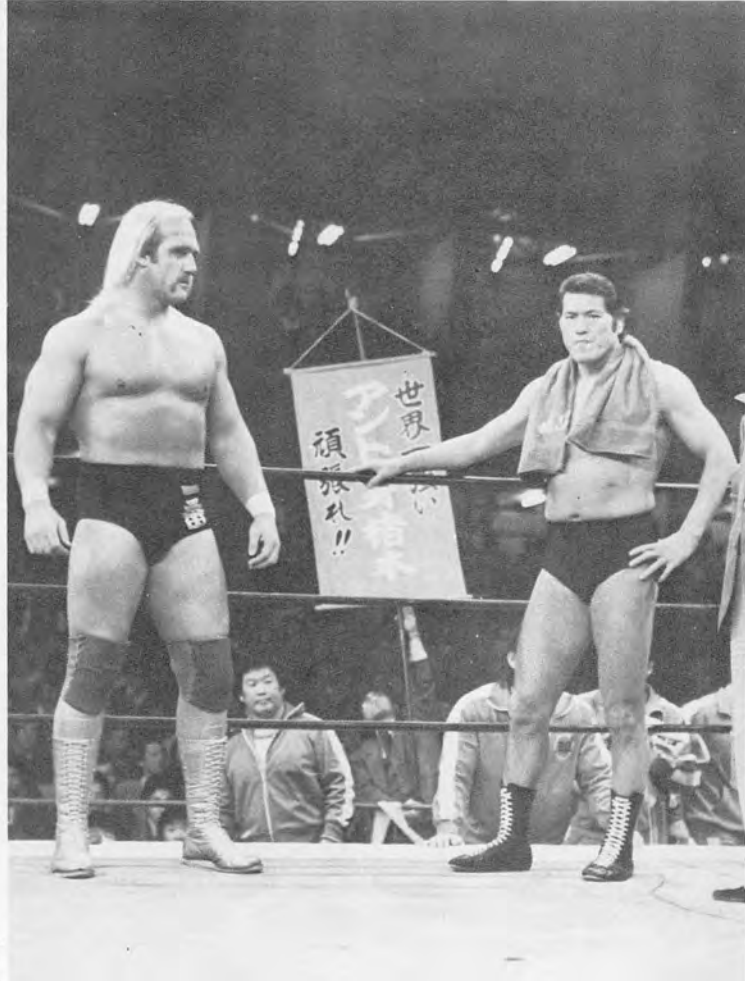
Killer Kahn's foot goes slamming into Hulk Hogan.



Hogan's elbow goes crashing into Kim Duk.



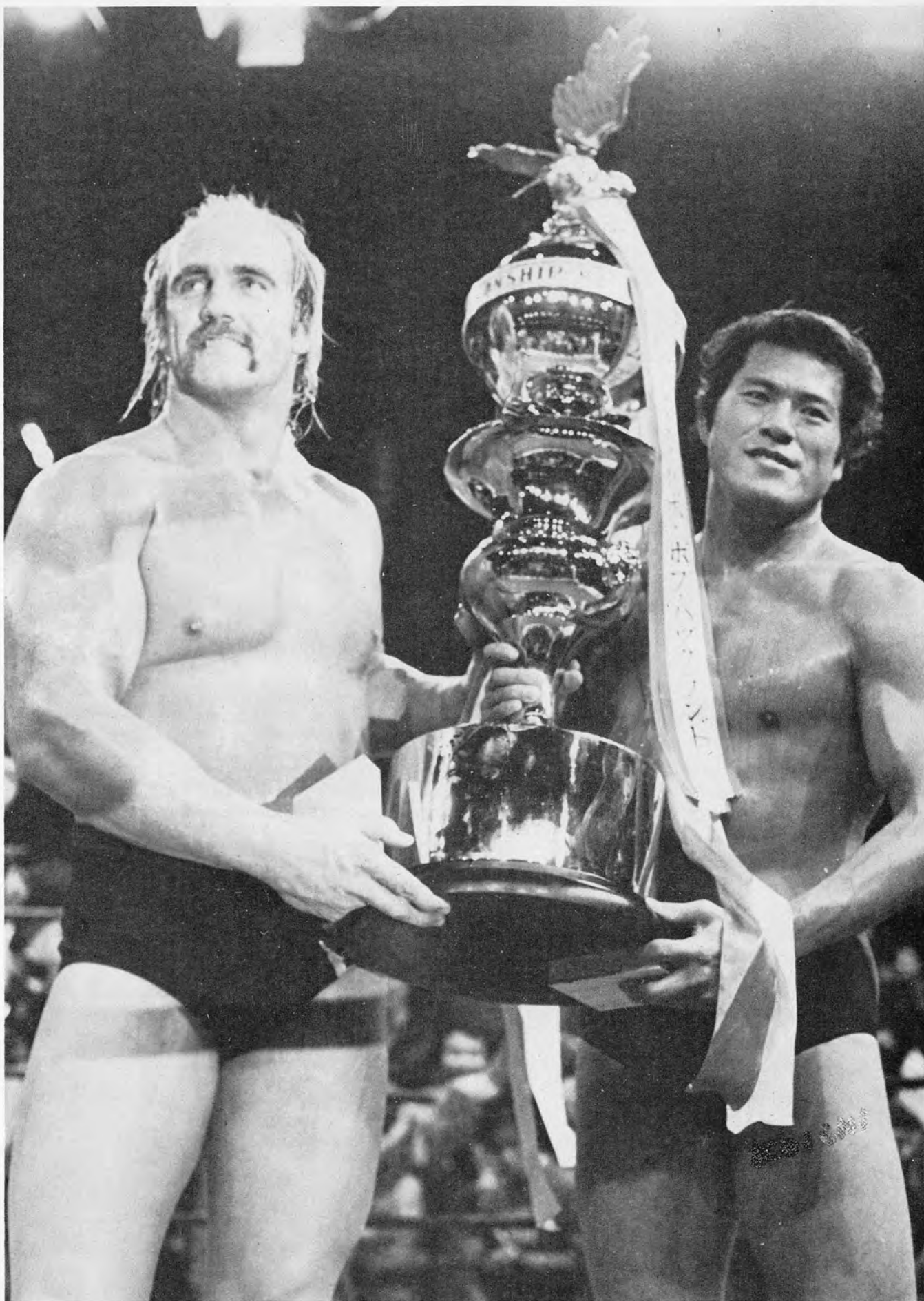
A bloody Hogan kicks Kahn in the abdomen.



Hulk Hogan and Antonio Inoki stand ready in center ring before the big match.



Antonio Inoki talks to the Japanese press after the sensational victory.



The winners: Hulk Hogan and Antonio Inoki proudly hold their newly captured Madison Square Garden Tag Team Tournament Trophy.



Bruno with Joe DiMaggio.



Bruno is honored at the festivities.



Bruno with hockey great, Phil Esposito and Dodger Manager Tommy LaSorda.



Bruno poses with the great Al Kaline.



Bruno poses with all the other sport's legends.

OUT OF THE RING

BRUNO SAMMARTINO, Joins Other Sports Legends At Bally's Park Place Hotel

By George Napolitano

On October 23, 1982, Bruno Sammartino, wrestling's only "Living Legend" met with 50 other sports legends in Atlantic City, New Jersey at Bally's Park Place Casino Hotel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of "The Greatest Sports Legends" program.

In the last ten years many sports legends have been profiled on this outstanding program and the executive producer of the program Berl Rotfield invited all of the honorees back to celebrate a happy weekend together in Bally's Park Place Hotel. No less than fifty of the greatest names in sports accepted the invitation to appear, at this gathering, which would probably be the biggest collection of sports personalities ever assembled at any one time.

On hand were: From baseball, Lou Brock, Roy Campanella, Joe DiMaggio, Leo Durocher, Bob Gibson, Al Kaline, Tommy LaSorda, Bob Lemon, Willie Mays, Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson, Warren Spahn, Willie Stargell and Earl Weaver; Basketball greats Elgin Baylor, Bob Cousy, Walt Frazier, John Havlicek and Oscar Robertson; football stars Herb Adderly, Bob Hayes, Bobby Layne, Ollie Matson, Lenny Moore, Kyle Rote, Gale Sayers, Jim Taylor and Stephen Van Buren; Hockey sensations Phil Esposito, Gordie Howe and Bobby Hull; From the world of track and field, Rafer Johnson, Bob Mathias, Wilma Rudolph, Jim Ryun, Bob Seagren and Bill Toomey; Tennis stars Don Budge and Bobby Riggs; Golf: Patty Berg;



Bruno is flanked by his hosts Berl Rotfield and Richard Gillman.

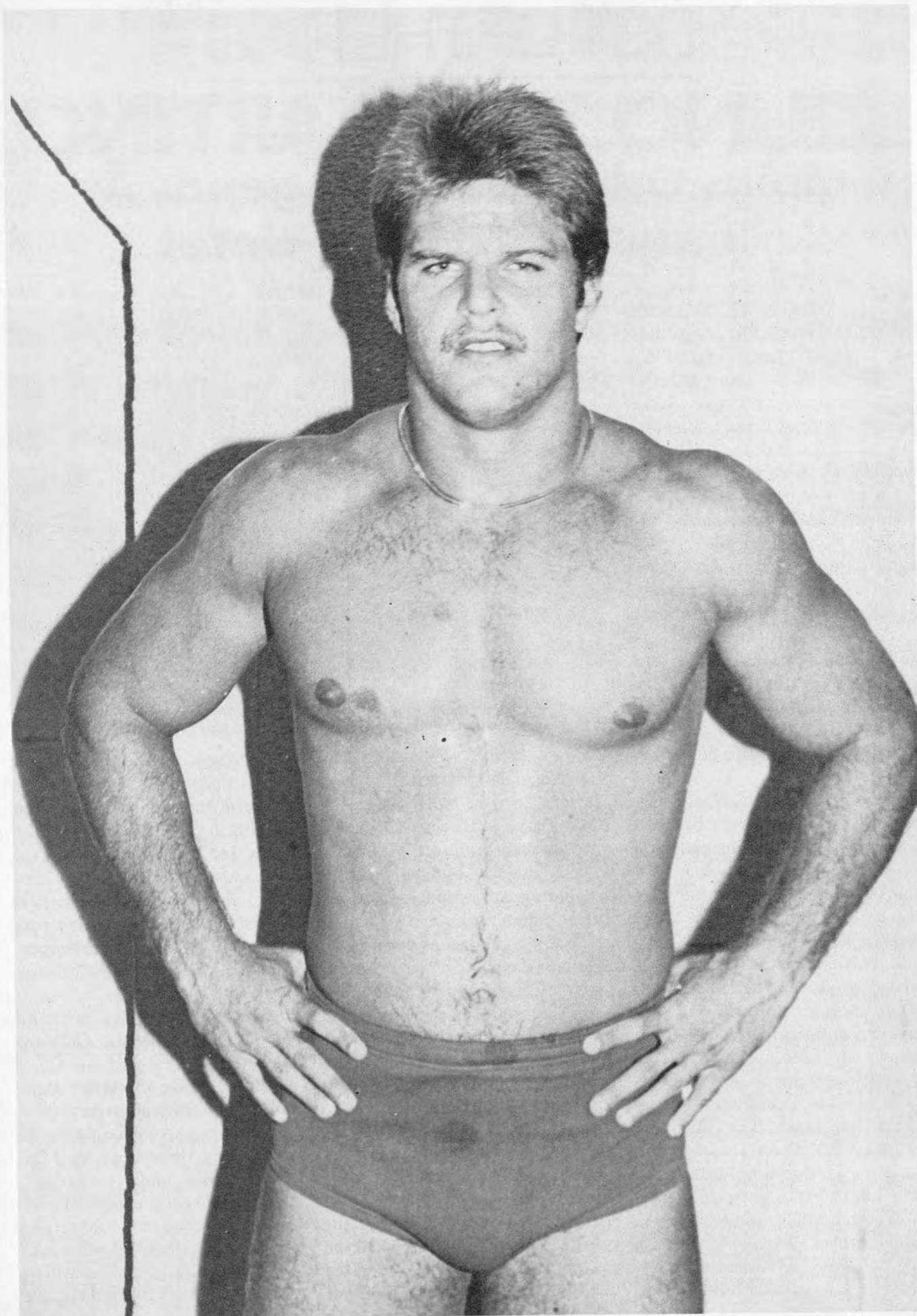
Swimming: Mark Spitz; Auto Racing: Roger Ward; Bowling: Don Carter. Also on hand were Mrs. Joe Louis, Mrs. Roberto Clemente, Mrs. Jackie Robinson, Mrs. Jesse Owens and last but not least representing professional wrestling: Bruno Sammartino.

Reading the list of guests who attended this gala event it is obvious that only those people who achieved legendary status in their sport had been designated as Sports Legends and it is a tribute to Bruno Sammartino that the sporting world thought as highly of him as we do to include him as one of the "World's Greatest Sports Legends."

The weekend affair featured a golf tournament and a tennis tournament, but the highlight of the weekend was the dinner where all of the Sports Legends renewed acquaintances. It was an honor and a thrill rubbing elbows with

Joe DiMaggio, Willie Mays, Bobby Hull. Bruno himself, enjoyed every minute of the affair and was seen laughing it up with Tommy LaSorda, Joe DiMaggio, Al Kaline, Phil Esposito and all the other honorees. Besides the camaraderie enjoyed by all, the evening was capped off by an outstanding performance by another legend, George Burns.

Berl Rotfield, president of Sports Legends, Inc., Richard Gillman, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive officer of Bally's Park Place Casino Hotel and their respective staffs have to be commended for bringing these legendary figures together under one roof. Already plans are under way for an eleventh anniversary reunion and you can be sure that everyone who attended the first gala affair will be on hand again for this remarkable event. □



B/W photos by George Napolitano

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

JACQUES ROUGEAU JR. Making It On His Own

By George Napolitano

Today the wrestling world abounds in second generation wrestlers. Curt Hennig, Eddie Gilbert, Mike Graham, Brad Armstrong, Kevin, David and Kerry Von Erich are just a few of the second generation wrestlers that have burst upon the wrestling scene in the last several years. But don't think for a second that simply because these men have a famous last name it was easier for them to make it in the wrestling world. Nothing could be further from the truth. If anything having to live up to a family name and reputation is one of the hardest things for anyone to do, and this is especially true in the wrestling profession. Imagine, then just how hard it must be on those men whose last name is followed by the word Junior. Dory Funk Jr. learned the hard way how tough it is to live up to a reputation, but Dory, as everyone is aware, eventually captured the NWA World's Heavyweight crown and he is still going strong today.



Jacques has Wayne Ferris wrapped up.

Bruno Sammartino Jr. is now finding out for himself how hard it is to be the son of the "Living Legend." But, Bruno Jr. keeps improving all the time and eventually the young Sammartino just may be able to live up to his father's reputation.

Besides these men there is yet another second generation wrestler who has the poise and confidence to carry his family's name on to greater heights and he is Jacques Rougeau Jr.

In his day, Jacques Rougeau Sr. was the number one wrestler in Canada. For twenty-five years Jacques ruled the Canadian scene, and today his son is quickly establishing his own name and reputation in the sport.

Jacques Jr. has been wrestling professionally for five years, and in this time the young Rougeau has wrestled throughout the Canadian provinces, then in Mexico, Germany, Georgia, Knoxville, Tenn., Kansas City, Mo., the Southeastern Wrestling territory and most recently in Memphis, Tenn. And from the looks of things we should be seeing and hearing quite a bit more about Jacques Rougeau Jr. in the future.

"It was hard on me at first," Jacques said during a quiet moment before a match in Montgomery, Ala. "I started out in Canada and there the Rougeau name is very well known. My father and my uncle John Rougeau both wrestled professionally for over twenty-five years, and they were Canadian



Rougeau using all his strength to pin Wayne Ferris.



Rougeau flings a painted Wayne Ferris against the turnbuckle.

champions in their day. Having to follow them made it very hard on me at first. As soon as the fans saw me they naturally tried to compare me to my father and uncle, but the comparison was unfair. I was merely a rookie! I really didn't know too much about the sport then, but I tried my best to make my family and friends proud of me. After my initial tryout period, I started to travel around and everywhere I went I learned more about the sport. I watched everybody! I stu-

died all the moves and maneuvers that the other wrestlers were using and some of these I adopted into my style. It was a slow process but I'm glad I took my time because now I am confident and certain that in the near future I will return to Canada and win the International title. Both my uncle and my father have worn the International Belt, and I am determined to bring it back to the family."

Having been raised in a wrestling family Jacques' early memo-

ries revolve around wrestling life. "My brothers and I traveled all the time with my dad. We would go to as many matches as possible, and whenever we got to an arena early we would get into the ring and toss each other around. With that kind of background I never thought I would do anything but wrestle." Eventually Jacques' older brother Raymond, entered the professional ranks and two years later Jacques Jr. joined his brother in the ring. "I can't forget my early training,"



Ferris grimaces in pain from Jacques' Arm-Lock.

Jacques said. "We had a ring set up behind our barn, and my father and my brother Raymond would take me out there everyday and put me through hell. My father was 6'4" and 246 pounds and he tossed me around like I was a rubber ball. But today when I look back at the kind of training that I received, I really appreciate all the help that he gave me. I am especially proud when I see my record and all my accomplishments, knowing that I owe it all to my father, for without

his help, encouragement and training I would not be here today!"

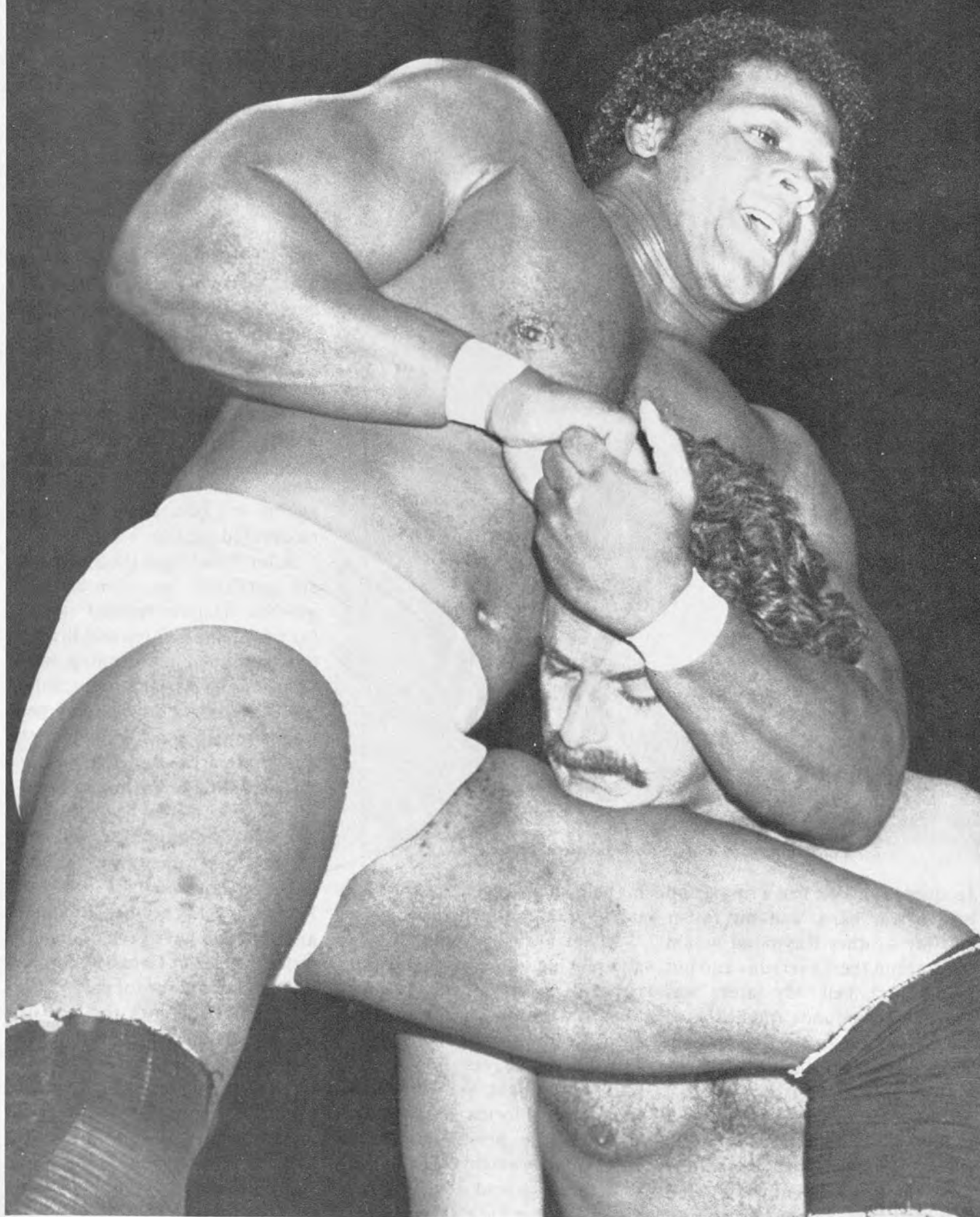
After traveling around the world and picking up pointers and experience along the way, Jacques found himself wrestling in the Southeastern Wrestling territory and it is there that Jacques finally came into the spotlight. Wrestling in the Pensacola, Florida area Jacques captured the prestigious Southeastern heavyweight title, from one time family friend Joe LeDuc. "I remember Joe LeDuc from when I

was twelve years old. My father and my uncle taught him how to wrestle. Joe and his brother, Paul, even lived in our house in Quebec. When I first ran into him on the tour after not seeing him for so many years I greeted him with a big hug. But he soon changed his ways and we became bitter enemies. I never did anything to make him change his attitude towards me, but he did. Eventually, the promoter signed a match between us, and I defeated him to win the Southeastern Heavyweight title. This had to be the biggest night in my career. Finally, I had captured a major title and I had defeated a very tough man to win it. Several months later, however, Joe LeDuc regained the title from me, but by this first victory I had finally established myself as a true Main Eventer. After losing the title back to LeDuc he refused to give me another chance to reclaim the belt. I finally challenged him and put up my hair against his belt, and that night I recaptured the title."

After wrestling in the Southeastern territory for several more months, Jacques headed straight for the Memphis area and there he has continued his winning ways. "The fans have been simply fantastic!" Jacques said. "The competition is superb and I really love the Tennessee area. But, I've been on the road for a few years now and I have learned a great deal. I feel that the time is right for me to return to Canada and once again reintroduce the Canadian fans to Jacques Rougeau Jr. My brothers Raymond and Armond have been doing very well throughout Canada and I feel that it is about time for me to rejoin the family and show the fans just how good all the Rougeaus are."

Jacques Rougeau Jr. has the poise and the confidence of a champion. He's big, strong and powerful and with his vast arsenal of holds and maneuvers we should be seeing and hearing a lot more about this talented wrestler in the future. □

Wrestler Of The Month



B/W photos by Bill Otten



Reed bends Garvin's arm and gets ready to pound away.

"I'm Waiting For You, Flair" ... BUTCH REED

by Jean Manning

One night in Florida a young and agile Butch Reed was declared the winner of his match with the World Heavyweight Champion, Ric Flair. What seemed like a sweet victory however, was soon turned into bitter disappointment for the elated Reed because the pin took place during a five minute extension of a 60 minute match and unfortunately did not count in the record book. The rules clearly state that a title can only change hands during regulation time.

Reed's encounter with Flair was very disappointing. He was the victor, but not the champion. In addition,

Reed was soon a hunted man. Flair quickly put a \$10,000 bounty on Reed. Any man who could pin him would not only be richer, but would also have the sadistic and rewarding pleasure of putting Butch Reed out of wrestling.

The next few weeks took quite a toll on the young athlete. Though Flair never had to pay the bounty, Butch had to watch his every move. Were all the wrestlers he fought friends of the champion or just money-hungry? Reed never found out. He had to fight for his life and his career, but he came out of his ordeal much stronger and wiser. Eventually Reed left Florida and was soon appearing in Georgia. But the question remained did he come back to Georgia to help an old friend or was he luring Flair

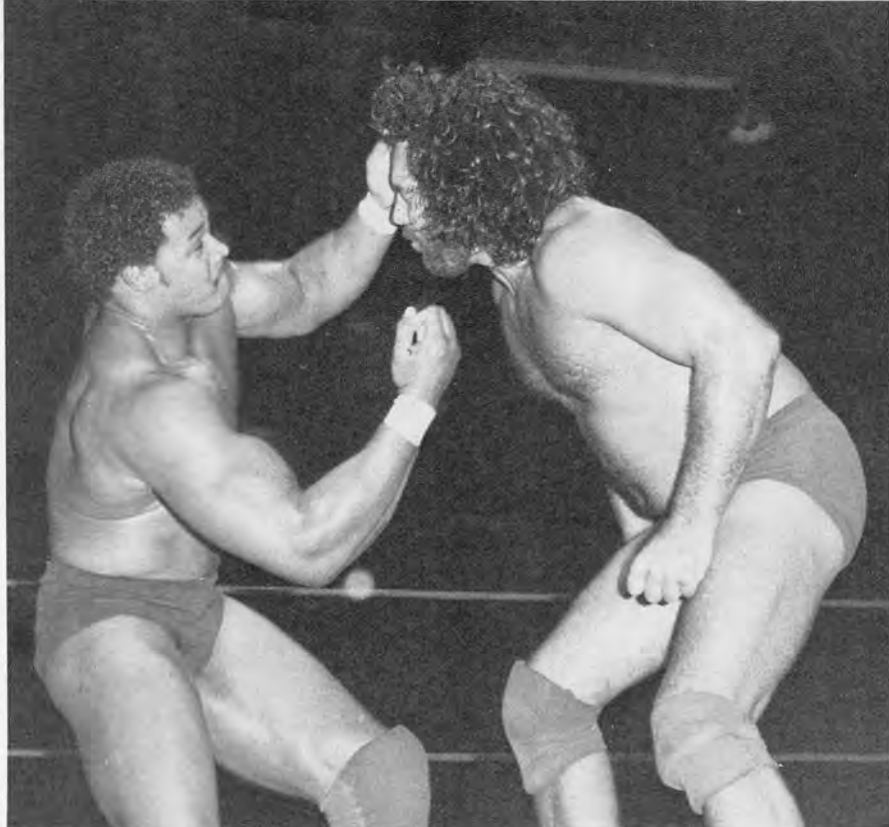
out of familiar waters? Upon his arrival very little was said about his recent bout with Flair. Reed appeared to be quite confident. Although he boasted, ranted and raved, he never once mentioned his feud with Flair. Eventually it was learned that he came to Georgia to even the score; to correct the injustice that had taken place in Florida.

The Georgia fans adored "Hack-saw." They hung on his every word and watched him back up all his claims. The Riches, Tommy and Johnny, recognized a friend in Reed when he challenged their old foe, "Mad Dog," Buzz Sawyer. As a special present to them, Butch met Buzz in a cage match with the special option of a long overdue haircut for the already balding Sawyer. Butch kept his promise and the

**Butch Reed has
Jim Garvin trapped
in his powerful grasp.**

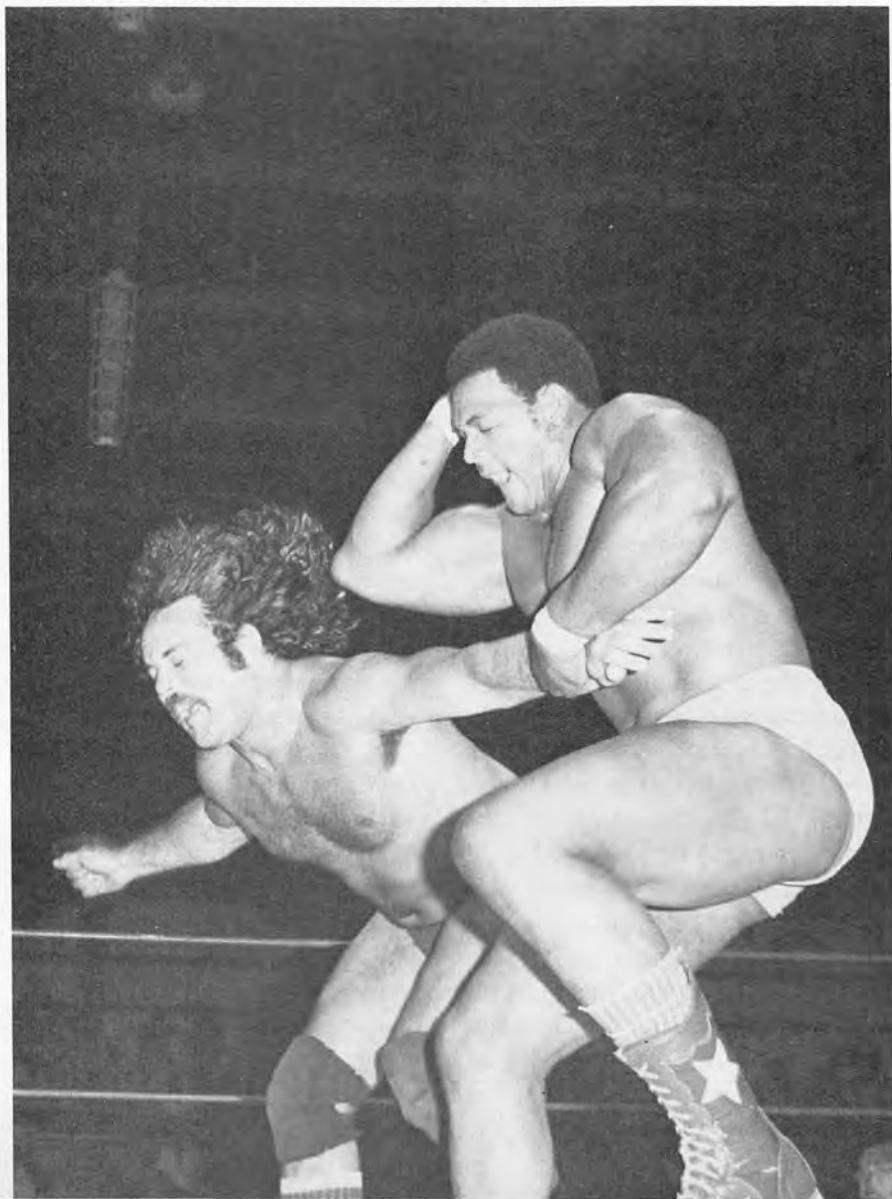
defeated Sawyer soon resembled a billiard ball.

Life hasn't always been easy for the young wrestler. It seems like only yesterday that Reed had a bright future in professional football. A superb athlete since his early high school days in Missouri, sports was his life and football was his first love. His excellence in football made him a star in college and eventually earned him a position with the Kansas City Chiefs as a middle linebacker. His future with the Chiefs was cut short however when an ankle injury forced him into early retirement. With his professional football career a thing of the past, Butch had to go forward. He wanted an athletic career, but one that would not be so stressful on his badly damaged ankle.



Reed's fist finds its way into Garvin's face.

Reed's elbow goes crashing into Garvin's shoulder.



Having wrestled in college, Reed decided to give professional wrestling a try. In 1978 Butch joined the mat wars starting his career in Vancouver, Canada. Since that time he has wrestled all over the U.S. and Europe. When he first wrestled in Georgia, he was tag team partners with his cousin, George Wells. One was seldom seen without the other. Butch was always the quiet one while George was the spokesman. They were an excellent tag team and captured several tag team titles. Butch moved on to Florida where he teamed with a new partner, Sweet Brown Sugar. Sugar constantly worked with Butch and improved his wrestling skills and helped him create a style all his own. With his previous training and sports background Reed had all the right ingredients to make him the star he is. His quick cat-like moves resemble those of a black panther, stalking his prey, fast and deadly. In the short time that he has been wrestling professionally, Reed has everyone talking about the tough opponents he has easily defeated in his endless string of victories.

Looking at the muscular Reed it

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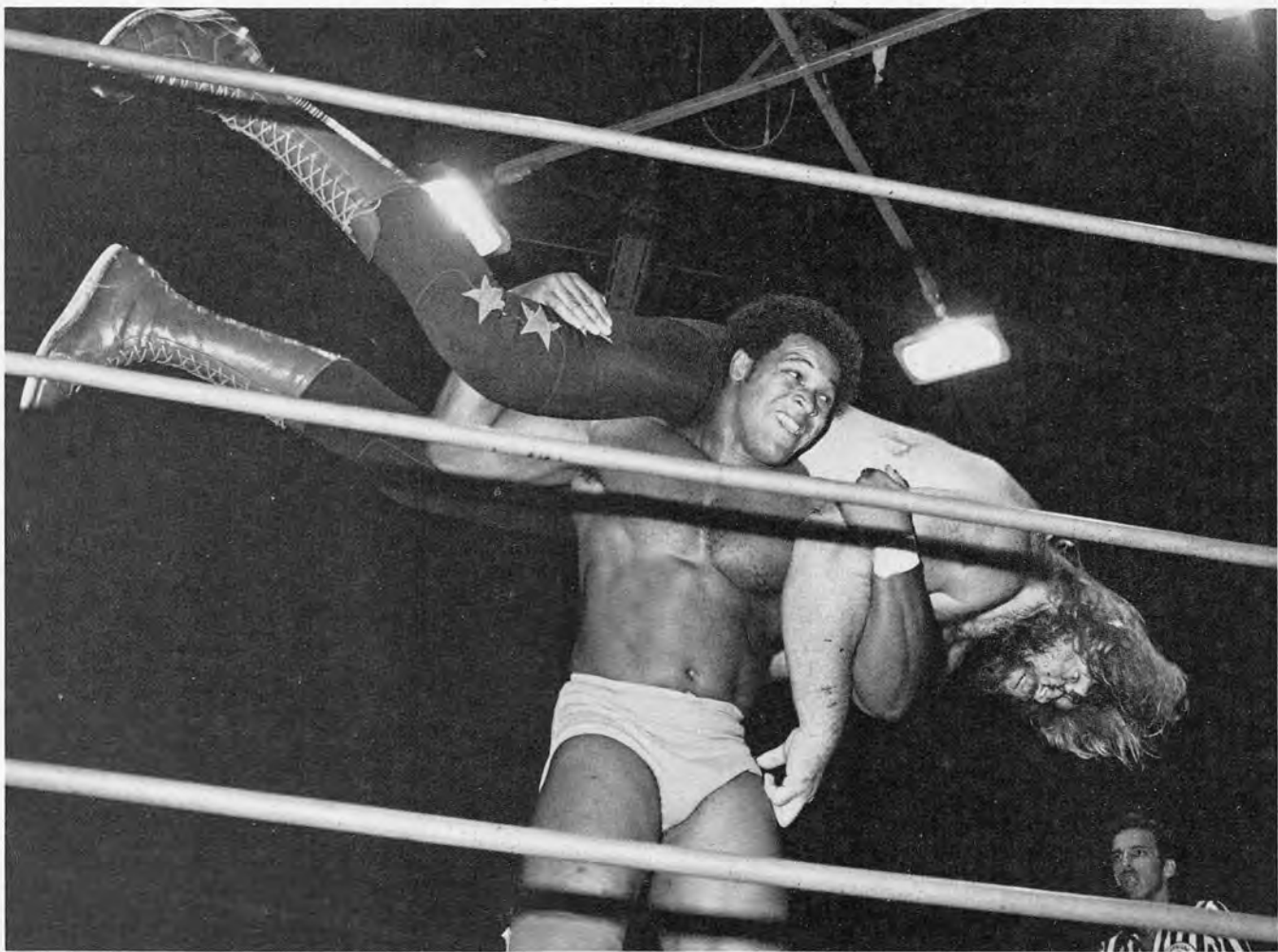
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Reed displays his tremendous power as he lifts up Big John Studd.



Reed is in a jubilant mood as he holds Ric Flair's championship belt, which he unfortunately could not keep.

is easy to compare him to Strong Man Tony Atlas. Aware of the comparison, Butch said, "Tony Atlas is a tremendously strong person. He uses a lot of brute strength in his wrestling where I use more finesse and strategy. Though we are similar in appearance and stature, we are definitely two different people once inside the ring."

Though Butch doesn't emphasize his strength there is no doubt that the man is awesome. When this 6'2", 240 lbs. hulk enters the ring you're surprised that the ground doesn't shake. He works out with weights religiously and is always involved in an exercise program of strenuous calisthenics and jogging. Outside the ring this giant may appear calm, but inside the ring he is an exploding volcano.

Butch has faced the strongest and the best. He has battled former champions Harley Race and Dory Funk, Jr. emerging victorious

against both. He even holds a victory over Ric Flair. So far he has emerged triumphant from every challenge no matter how great as when he defeated the Masked Superstar in a Battle Royal in Atlanta to win \$25,000. He knows all the NWA rules and more important he is learning all of Ric Flair's tricks.

Will Butch use his newly acquired fortune to lure Ric Flair to Georgia? Butch says "Flair has to come to Georgia. He has to defend his belt and Georgia has a lot of the top contenders. I'm at the top of that list and when Ric Flair makes his appearance I will be ready for him, guaranteed!" Can Ric Flair be tempted once again to tangle with the blades of the "Hacksaw"? Will Butch Reed finally become the new World Heavyweight Champion? Butch Reed knows that answer but no one knows how long he'll have to wait to wrest the crown from the wily Flair. □

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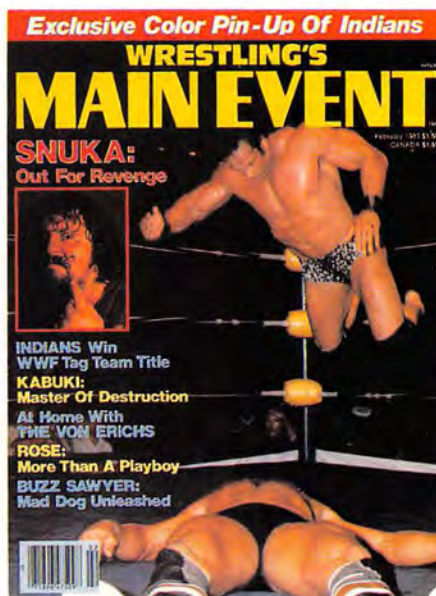
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PEDRO MORALES

Portrait Of A Champion

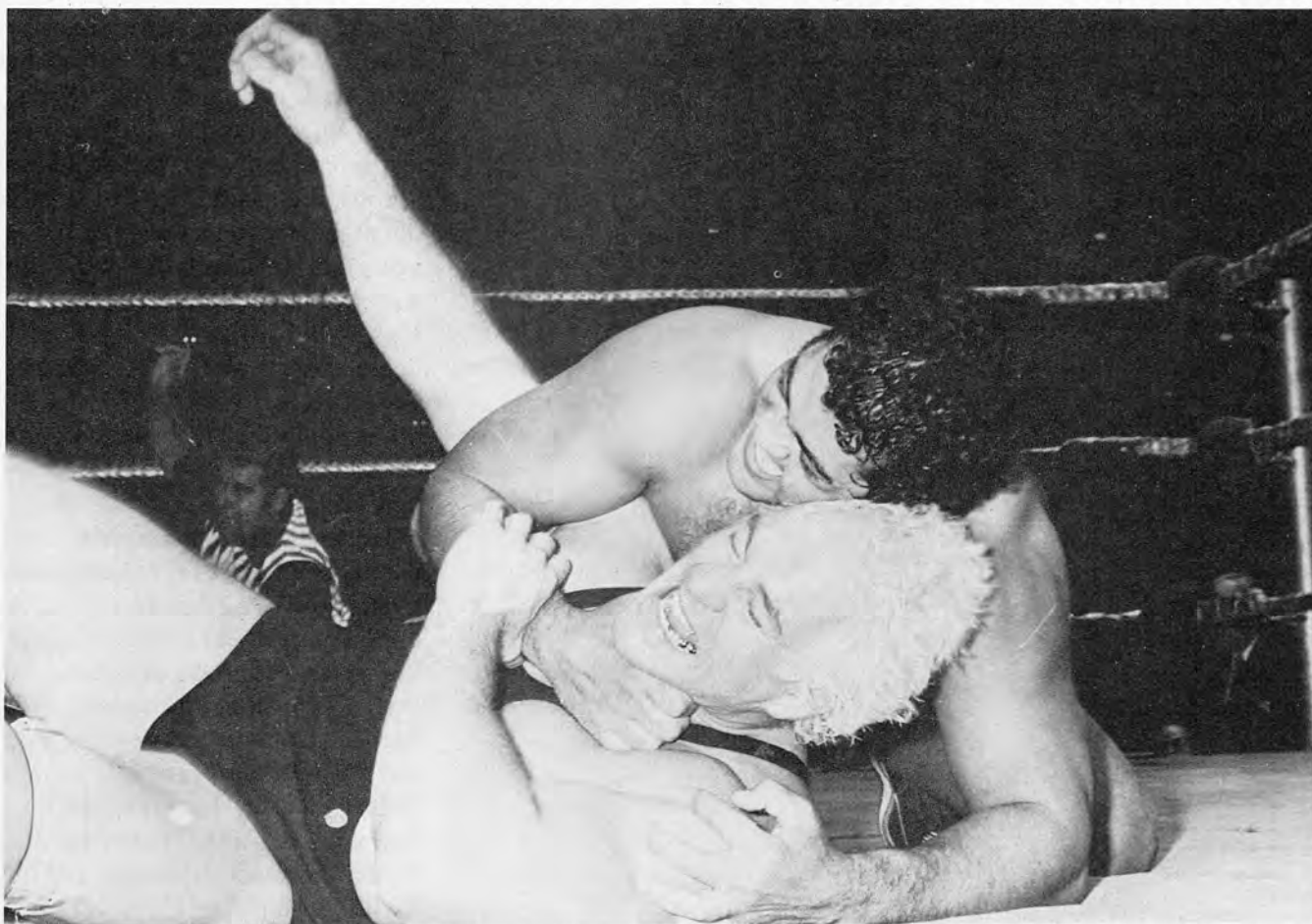
by R.J. D'Ariano

Pedro Morales is truly a wrestling legend. He is the only man alive who has held all three of the titles recognized by the World Wrestling Federation. Of course, he was the WWF Heavyweight champion. He then held the WWF tag team championship with

Bob Backlund, and he is currently the Intercontinental champion for the second time! He is without a doubt one of the most experienced stars in the game today. Morales has been a fan favorite for years; always a gentleman with the highest regard for the rules and always

as Pedro says, "ready for any kind of action!"

At the onset of his career, Pedro seemed forced to live in the shadow of the "Living Legend", Bruno Sammartino. It started the night Bruno first won the WWF title from Buddy "Nature Boy" Rogers.



Pedro chokes Ken Patera during their wild bout in Madison Square Garden. (Left) A rare photo of Andre the Giant and Pedro Morales taken in 1972 when Pedro was WWF Champion.

B/W photos by George Napolitano



Pedro displays his explosive power as he connects with a solid left to Bob Orton's jaw.



Pedro has Muraco hanging over the ropes.

That night a young Pedro was also on the Madison Square Garden card in a match against Willie Bath. No one realized he'd be back at the Garden for may future triumphs. Pedro was also on the card the night Bruno lost the title to the powerful "Russian Bear", Ivan Koloff. Pedro astounded the wrestling world when one month later he defeated Koloff in ten minutes and forty seconds. Morales was now champion, removed from the shadows and basking in the lime-light at last.

He was a great champion. During his reign one of the classic confrontations of all time took place, a dream match held in massive Shea Stadium; Bruno Sammartino vs. Pedro Morales. The two legends battled it out in the pouring rain for 75 minutes until the match ended in a draw, but everyone, fans and wrestlers alike, admitted that Pedro was indeed the equal of "the Living Legend."

Pedro held the WWF title for over two years, and finally lost it in



Sgt. Slaughter catches the full fury of Pedro's explosive left hand.

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Philadelphia when he met Stan "The Man" Stasiak, who used the controversial "Heart Punch" to win the bout and the title.

Ironically, years later during the second card ever held in Shea Stadium, Pedro captured the tag team title. It was a wrestling spectacular in every sense of the word; Bruno Sammartino in a steel cage match against Larry Zbyszko; Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan and a super line up of stars that included the wild Samoans, Afa and Sika, vs. the WWF Heavyweight champion, Bob Backlund and former champion Pedro Morales. The Samoans had been undefeated, leaving a long trail of destruction in their wake but now they had met their match. Backlund and Morales showed the 40,000 plus fans what championship wrestling was all about. They shocked the Samoans and delighted the crowd with a smashing win to capture the tag team title.

A few weeks later in a surprise announcement they revealed that they had to retire as tag team champions, due to Bob Backlund's grueling schedule as WWF champion. It was impossible for him to defend two titles simultaneously. Backlund and Morales remained the best of friends, but this was another tough break for Morales.

Soon afterwards, Pedro's skill and determination paid off once again. In a hot and heavy battle with the then Intercontinental champion and Olympic gold medal winner, Ken Patera, Pedro won the championship! He proved once again that he was without a doubt a champion, among champions!

The Magnificent Muraco, once using a concealed foreign object managed to steal the belt from Pedro. Yet when they finally met again Morales turned the tables and regained the title. He's been the Intercontinental Champion ever since facing all comers. Men like Sgt. Slaughter, Jesse Ventura, Adrian Adonis and Buddy Rose all have met defeat at his hands.



Pedro has his hand held high in victory by referee Jackie Lotz.



Two former WWF champions: Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales.

Now Muraco is back and he wants Pedro bad! This is nothing new for Morales; he's a veteran's veteran and history will show that he's one of the greatest wrestling

stars of all time.

Pedro Morales, for all the great years of thrills and action packed excitement, we salute you, as one of the greatest of all times. □

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